

Sports People

For while, Raymond put Graf to the test

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

Across the net was **Steffi Graf**, the world's No. 1 women's tennis player.

Until late in the second set of the Pathmark Classic final, her opponent, **Lisa Raymond**, had blocked out who she was facing. Raymond, from Wayne, had won the first set, 6-4, and was leading the second set, 4-3. Hold serve now and Raymond would be on the verge of the biggest upset of her short pro career.

"I started thinking too much and realized I had a chance to beat the No. 1 player in the world," the 54th-ranked Raymond said after Sunday's match in Mahwah, N.J.

For the first time in the match, Raymond dropped her serve (at love), and Graf seized the opening, taking the set, 6-4, and the third set, 6-1, of the exhibition tournament.

Back home yesterday, Raymond acknowledged she was nervous before playing Graf for the first time.

"I just wanted to make it a good show," Raymond said. "But I broke her at 1-all, and I was playing really well."

Although disappointed, Raymond will use the loss to Graf as another stepping-stone.

"I've never played against someone who hits her forehand the way she does," the two-time NCAA singles champion at Florida said. "Her forehand comes at you like a gun. She's always attacking. She makes you feel like you've got to hit outright winners or the outside of the line to get it by her."

Raymond impressed Graf.

"Lisa has a lot of skills and a very good forehand," said Graf, a five-time Wimbledon and three-time U.S. Open champion. "She tries to come in and sometimes makes mistakes. It's just a matter of time before that changes."

Raymond's only other finals appearance this year was in Lucerne, Switzerland, in a pre-French Open tournament, where she lost to her doubles partner, **Lindsay Davenport**. The towering California teenager has soared to the No. 6 ranking.

During the Lucerne tournament, Raymond upset **Maggie Maleeva** (now No. 17). The match is mentioned in a July 25 *New Yorker* magazine feature about the tennis-playing Maleeva sisters.

ROWERS MUNICH-BOUND

Four Catholic Leaguers will be on the ILS

"When he was a freshman, he was always asking me for manuals and books to read. That told me he wanted to be the best."

Miller will row in the pair with coxswain.

"Before this year," Sigmund said, "we weren't planning on Garrett making our varsity eight. But he decided he wanted to be an excellent athlete. He started running five miles every other day, and he lifted every other day."

ANTI-DRUG PITCH

Sixers forward **Tim Perry** will appear at the Sayre/Morris Playground, 59th and Spruce streets, today at 11 a.m. Perry will deliver a "Stay in School, Say No to Drugs" message.

The Sixers are refurbishing the basketball backboards at Sayre/Morris and other city recreation centers. Mayor **Rendell** will join Perry at the playground.

On Thursday at 11 a.m. Perry's teammate, **Clarence Weatherspoon**, will visit the Donald Finnegan Recreation Center, at 30th and Oakford streets.

PEARSON A MAGIC MAN

Former Drexel player **Matt Pearson** is playing for the Magic All-Stars, a team operated by former Lakers star **Magic Johnson** in the Los Angeles Summer Basketball League.

The Magic Stars play against rookie and free agent teams at the University of California-Irvine. Pearson attracted attention after averaging 15 points, 5.6 rebounds and 4.6 assists at the International Overseas Camp in Chicago earlier this summer.

AUTOS EXPO PLANNED

The city is revving its motors and finalizing plans for an Autos Expo on Sept. 14.

The Expo will be in the City Hall vicinity from noon to 7 p.m. to promote three major races in the area on Sept. 18: the Keystone Nationals at Maple Grove Raceway, near Reading; the Bosch Grand Prix Indy car race at Nazareth Speedway and the Split Fire 500 Winston Cup event at Dover Downs (Del.) International Speedway.

Plans call for appearances by drag racer **Don "The Snake" Prudhomme**, **Mario Andretti** (Indy cars) and **Harry Gant** (stock cars).

AROUND TOWN

■ **Steve Solomone**, who guided Gloucester County College to a 30-0 men's basketball

2042835643

THE PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 8, 1994

Sports

IMG near deal to administer troubled WTA Tour

NEW YORK — The WTA Tour has no title sponsor for next year and, as of now, no Monica Seles or Jennifer Capriati.

With Martina Navratilova retiring, the WTA Tour is facing troubled times.

Enter IMG. The International Management Group is on the verge of a deal to administer the women's tour for the next two years.

After a press conference was called for yesterday in New York, it was canceled. But Barbara Perry, an IMG executive who is director of the Slims of Philadelphia tournament in November, said that following meetings with the Women's

Tennis Council, she expects IMG to be approved as the tour's administrator.

"We'd like to jump-start [the tour] and get it focused in the right direction," Perry said. "We feel it's floundering right now. We'd like to get the players involved in decision-making roles."

"The next couple days will be very interesting. There's going to be a lot of meetings."

The council, comprised of player, tournament and International Tennis Federation members, governs the women's tour. ■

— Bill Fleischman

2042835644

U.S. Open

Stich serves notice

Advances to semifinal match with Novacek

by **Bill Fleischman***Daily News Sports Writer*

NEW YORK — Three years ago, after Michael Stich won Wimbledon, he appeared poised to start a run of Grand Slam victories.

It didn't happen.

Stich, 25, has reached only one Grand Slam semifinal since winning Wimbledon, last year's Australian Open.

His performance in this year's Grand Slam events has been, to put it kindly, dismal. He lost in the first round in Australia and Wimbledon, and in the second round at the French Open.

Suddenly, however, Stich is playing close to his Wimbledon '91 form. His 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (7-9), 6-4 victory over Jonas Bjorkman last night sends the fourth-seeded Stich into the U.S. Open semifinals.

Stich will play unseeded Karel Novacek tomorrow. Novacek, from the Czech Republic, advanced to his first Grand Slam semifinal by serving a tournament-high 28 aces in a 6-2, 6-7 (7-9), 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 decision over Peru's Jaime Yzaga. Novacek, 29, is ranked No. 56.

"For me," said the ecstatic Novacek, "it was the dreaming destination, to break the quarterfinals of the Grand Slams. I am endlessly happy that I did it today. That was something that I was missing in my tennis career."

Under the lights on the Louis Armstrong Stadium Court, Stich didn't miss much in the first two sets. But in the third set, his serve deserted him.

He was up a break at 3-1, but the No. 71-ranked Bjorkman broke back and then raised his level. Stich moved ahead 4-1 in the tiebreaker, then Bjorkman rallied.

The 22-year-old, who upset fifth-seeded Stefan Edberg in the third round, was unable to convert his first two set points. But on the third set point he landed an unreturnable drop volley. The set was the first Stich dropped in the Open.

Trailing 4-3 and serving, Bjorkman was unable to convert six game points until he served consecutive winners.

Stich took a 40-0 lead in the next game, but then double-faulted twice on his way to deuce. He fought off two break points, then finally clinched the game with a service winner and a 110 mph ace to go ahead, 5-4.

At 30-30 on Bjorkman's serve, Stich ripped a

backhand passing shot. The match ended abruptly when a backhand by Bjorkman sailed wide.

Alluding to his 15 double-faults, Stich said, "My serve didn't help me out. Everybody has one match where they aren't playing as well as they'd like to, and today was mine."

In tomorrow's other semifinal, No. 9 Todd Martin meets unseeded Andre Agassi.

YOUTH WON'T BE SERVED

Hoping to prevent more Jennifer Capriati type burnouts, the WTA Tour has agreed to change its age restriction requirements.

Responding to a study by its Age Eligibility Commission, the WTA Tour plans to forbid 14-year-olds from playing in its tournaments. Under current rules, 14-year-olds may play in 12 tour events plus the end-of-the-year Slims Championships.

The commission recommends still-to-be-decided limited participation until a player reaches 18. There are no players 14 or 15 in the current top 225.

GRAF MEETS NOVOTNA

In today's first women's semifinal, top-seeded Steffi Graf meets No. 7 Jana Novotna. Graf has won nine in a row (but none on hard courts) over Novotna and leads the series, 20-3.

No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario faces No. 8 Gabriela Sabatini in the other semi. Sabatini leads their series, 12-9, but Sanchez Vicario has won six of their last seven meetings. Two of the Spaniard's recent six victories have been on hard courts.

RAYMOND OUT OF DOUBLES

Lisa Raymond, of Wayne, and Lindsay Davenport, the fifth-seeded women's doubles team, dropped their quarterfinal match to second-seeded Sanchez Vicario-Novotna, 6-2, 6-4.

The second set was tied 4-4 with Davenport serving. She and Raymond had six game points but failed to capitalize. They were broken on the second break point when Davenport netted a half volley.

The next tournaments for Raymond, who lost to No. 5 seed Kimiko Date in the third round of Open singles, will be in Leipzig, Germany, later this month and in Zurich, Switzerland, early next month. Raymond is scheduled to play in the Slims of Philadelphia beginning Nov. 7.

2042835645

U.S. Open

For Sanchez Vicario, a tourney double take

by **Bill Fleischman***Daily News Sports Writer*

NEW YORK — It's tempting to suggest that Arantxa Sanchez Vicario backed into her first U.S. Open women's singles title.

Steffi Graf's aching back began acting up in the second set of their final Saturday. But Graf, the defending Open champion, insisted she felt better a few games later.

Give Sanchez Vicario credit. Anyone who can beat Graf after dropping the first set is a winner.

After rallying to beat Graf, 1-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, the second-seeded Sanchez Vicario has beaten Graf in three of their last four meetings. Graf had an overwhelming, 51-0 record when she won the first set of an Open match.

Graf will retain her No. 1 spot in the computer rankings, but Sanchez Vicario can make a case for being No. 1 this year.

The first Spanish woman in the 108-year history of the U.S. championships to win the title has won two of the four Grand Slams this year. Graf and Conchita Martinez won the others.

Sanchez Vicario and Graf each have won seven tournaments in 1994.

"Maybe [I should be No. 1], I won two Grand Slams and I have been so consistent," Sanchez Vicario said after collecting the \$550,000 winner's check. "But Steffi is a great player, [a] great champion and she is still No. 1"

Sanchez Vicario added to her Open haul yesterday when she and partner Jana Novotna defeated Katerina Maleeva and Robin White, 6-3, 6-3, in the women's doubles final. The second-seeded Sanchez Vicario and Novotna each earned \$100,000.

Sanchez Vicario credits doubles for much of her success in singles.

"I get more confidence to go more to the net and improve my serve," she said. "My volleys are



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario reacts to her upset of Steffi Graf

more strong and I can return better."

Before the Slims Championships in New York in November Sanchez Vicario will play in a tournament in Oakland instead of the Slims of Philadelphia. The Oakland event is the week before the Philadelphia tournament.

Sanchez Vicario will appear on the Late Show with David Letterman's tonight (Channel 10, 11:35).

TU MUCH

Switzerland's Martina Hingis is hailed as the next outstanding women's player. But yesterday, fourth-seeded Meilen Tu, 16, of Northridge, Calif., upset the top-seeded Hingis, 6-2, 6-4, in the junior girls final. Hingis, who will celebrate her 14th birthday Sept. 20 and plans to turn pro later this month, had won the French Open and Wimbledon junior titles. ■

Sports

Graf slated for Slims tourney

Her ailing back willing, top-ranked Steffi Graf will return to play in the Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament Nov. 7 to 13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Graf, a finalist at the U.S. Open last week, won the Slims of Philadelphia two years ago when it was played at the Civic Center. A recurrence of a back injury is forcing her to take off at least three weeks from the WTA Tour.

Also returning to Philadelphia are Wimbledon champion Conchita Martínez, French Open finalist Mary Pierce and U.S. Open semifi-

nalist Gabriela Sabatini. Martinez defeated Graf in last year's Slims of Philadelphia final.

The early entries were announced yesterday at a luncheon at the Rittenhouse Hotel. As expected, Lisa Raymond, of Wayne, will play in the \$750,000 Philadelphia event. Raymond, ranked No. 48, reached the third round of the U.S. Open.

Tournament director Barbara Perry said "there's a chance" that Jennifer Capriati will play in the Slims event. Capriati, 18, is rejoining the tour next month in Europe. She hasn't played in a tour event since last year's U.S. Open. She was

arrested last May in Florida on drug charges and underwent rehabilitation.

"We're all very happy about [having Capriati back]," Raymond said. "It's great that she's healthy again and on the road back. Everyone likes Jen."

AGASSI TO PLAY HERE

Looking further ahead, U.S. Open winner Andre Agassi is scheduled to play in the Comcast U.S. Indoor at the CoreStates Spectrum in February.

— Bill Fleischman

Fast Facts

ns deal with Knicks

■ Pittsburgh point guard Jerry McCullough, the Panthers' top player the past two seasons, tore a left knee ligament during a pickup game and is out for the season.

■ Ohio State assistant men's basketball coach Ken Turner, 48, who had a heart attack while jogging a week ago, died at Grant Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio.

■ Forward Kelly Thames, the Big Eight's freshman of the year last season, tore the posterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during conditioning exercises and will be out for the season.

TRACK

■ The International Amateur Athletic Federation defended its two-year suspension of Katrin Krabbe for taking a banned substance, clenbuterol, and said it would fight the German sprinter's lawsuit.

■ Hurdlers Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell were picked as Britain's male and female track and field athletes of the year by the British Athletics Writers Association.

PHILLY FILE

■ The fourth annual Greater Philadelphia Memory Walk & 5K

Run, benefiting the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Philadelphia, will be 8:30 a.m. Sunday. The event, sponsored by U.S. Healthcare, will begin at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park. For details, call 215-568-6430.

■ The Edwards-Freeman 5K Nut Run is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Saturday. The event is part of the second annual Conshohocken Fall FunFest. Call 215-940-1111 for information.

■ Californian Lindsay Davenport, ranked No. 7 in the world, has entered the Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament Nov. 7 to 13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

■ The 91st annual Philadelphia Sports Writers Association awards dinner will be Jan. 23 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Robbie Kenney (609-786-0873) has info.

SPORT STOPS

■ Pat Summerall was voted Sportscaster of the Year by members of the American Sportscasters Association.

■ Soccer star Diego Maradona changed his mind and will not sue soccer's world governing body to get a reduction of his 15-month suspension for violating drug policy. ■

2042835648

Show previews season that might not be

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

Even if the opening of the NHL season is delayed, fans can check out the "Face-Off '94" preview on SportsChannel Philadelphia tonight at 7 o'clock.

Originating from SportsChannel's Chicago studios, the show will include features and roundtable discussions. Panelists will include Flyers analyst Gary Dornhoefer, former Boston goalie Gerry Cheevers and Jersey Devils analyst Peter McNab.

Mike Milbury, the former Boston Bruins defenseman and general manager, will be ESPN's "National Hockey Night" studio analyst this season. Milbury resigned from the Bruins after last season to coach at Boston College. Then he abruptly left BC after just two weeks, citing philosophical differences.

Gary Thorne and former Flyers TV analyst Bill Clement return as ESPN's lead game commentators.

If there is no lockout, ESPN's first game seen here will be Hartford at Toronto Tuesday night. The Flyers at Florida is ESPN's main game on Tuesday, but Channel 17 will carry that game locally. ESPN2 has the best matchup for its opener tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.: the Stanley Cup champion New York Rangers vs. the Jersey Devils.

CHANNEL CLICKING

■ No. 3 Florida State vs. No. 13 Miami will be on ESPN at 7:30 p.m. next Saturday.

■ Hoop madness alert: ESPN will carry "Midnight Madness" college basketball practice openers from St. John's, Florida and Cincinnati. The Cincy coverage will include a tribute to Bearcats great Oscar Robertson. Dick Vitale will be at Cincinnati. Vitale howling at midnight: Make sure the kids are securely tucked in bed, the blankets over their ears.

■ Tennis great Chris Evert, winner of 18 Grand Slam titles, will be the analyst for Channel 3's same-day telecast of the Slims of Philadelphia final Nov. 13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Evert will work with play-by-play man Lou Tilley and his Channel 3 colleague, Ukee Washington.

■ Todd Christensen, the analyst on NBC's Notre Dame-Stanford telecast tomorrow (Channel 3, 2:30 p.m.), on quarterbacks Ron Powlus, of Notre Dame, and Steve Stenstrom, of Stanford: "It's too early to judge [Powlus]. The expectations are tremendous. But you do see him make some plays that really get you excited. [Stenstrom] seems to be bright and unflappable. He's a pro prospect, but I don't think he's a can't-miss." ■

Sports People

Owls set to honor Anderson, 9 others

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

The first time **Anthony Anderson** carried a football in a game for Temple against Penn State, he scored a touchdown. Talk about good first impressions...

Anderson finished his collegiate career as Temple's No. 2 all-time rusher, with 2,610 yards. He played in the NFL with Pittsburgh and Atlanta, then made his final pro stop with the USFL Philadelphia Stars.

Friday night, Anderson, his coach, **Wayne Hardin**, and eight others will be inducted into the Temple Athletic Hall of Fame. The Temple 10 will be recognized at halftime of Saturday's Owls-Syracuse Big East Conference game at Veterans Stadium (6 p.m. kickoff).

Temple was hosting Penn State in 1976 at Franklin

Field in the first game since the series resumed. The Owls had the ball on the Penn State 6-yard line when Anderson's play, 34 Slant, was called.

"All these big guys hit me," Anderson recalled from his Wilmington home. "Everybody thought I was down, but the whistle didn't blow. I kept my feet driving, found a little crack and spun through."

Anderson's game-opening touchdown stunned the favored Nittany Lions. Eventually, however, the Lions rallied to win, 31-30.

Another vivid memory from Anderson's freshman year was his first start against Akron.

"I hurt my shoulder on the first play," he said. "It felt like [the shoulder] fell off. I'd never been hit that hard."

Anderson returned to the game and wound up with 159 yards. His most productive game for the Owls was in his sophomore year, when he rumbled for 217 yards and two touchdowns in a 42-0 trouncing of Drake.

Anderson is a real-estate developer and general contractor in Wilmington. He has worked with the New Castle County Equal Opportunity Commission and with the Police Athletic League.

Anderson hasn't met Temple coach **Ron Dickerson**, but the former Owls star stays in touch with **Earl Cleghorn**, Temple's associate director of athletics.



Anderson

been on the Women's Tennis Association tour for almost as long as **Martina Hingis** has been alive.

As Hingis, 14, the tour's latest junior high-age phenom, begins her pro career, it reminds Sabatini of the first time she played a high-ranked player.

"The [U.S.] Open was my first big tournament in 1984," Sabatini said last week from Filderstadt, Germany. "I played [**Helena Sukova**] in the third round. It was my first time on the stadium court. I played very good [but] she played great and won."

Sabatini is returning to Philadelphia Nov. 7 to 13 to play in the \$750,000 **Virginia Slims** tournament at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

If Sabatini had beaten **Christina Singer** at Filderstadt, the popular Argentinian would have played Hingis in the second round. Instead, Sabatini lost to Singer.

In the last few years, Sabatini has been losing too many matches to players like the 85th-ranked Singer. Sabatini hasn't won a tournament since the Italian Open two years ago.

This year, Sabatini has reached two finals. She also has advanced to the semifinals of two Grand Slam events, losing in both the U.S. and Australian opens to **Arantxa Sanchez Vicario**.

The ninth-ranked Sabatini is optimistic that she is on track to regain the form that elevated her to No. 3 in early 1993. She still is working with **Juan Nunez**, the coach who revived her game before the U.S. Open.

"I'm not happy where I am," said the 1990 U.S. Open champion.

Slims of Philadelphia tournament director **Barbara Perry** notes that anyone holding unused Phillies and Flyers tickets may obtain a ticket to an early Slims session. Perry advised people to bring their tickets to any Camera Shop Inc. location.

EXPLORER NO. 2 IN NATION

La Salle freshman **Cesidio Colasante** is leading the revival of the school's soccer program.

With 40 points (15 goals and 10 assists) Colasante is second in Division I soccer scoring.

Colasante, from Hockessin, Del., scored four goals and added an assist in the Explorers' 5-2 victory over Temple last Sunday. After winning just one game last season, La Salle is 10-4 overall and is leading the Midwestern Collegiate Conference

MEMORIES FOR SABATINI

Gabriela Sabatini is only 24, but she has

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

Sports

THE PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

PAGE 75

Tennis

Davenport is hitting town on a high note

by Bill Fleischman

Daily News Sports Writer

When Martina Navratilova retires soon, the top-ranked U.S. women's tennis player will be ...

Take a few seconds to think about it ...

Right, Lindsay Davenport. Davenport has soared to the No. 7 ranking in the world minus the fanfare that accompanied Jennifer Capriati's rise in women's tennis.

Davenport, 18, will seek her third tournament victory of the year in the \$750,000 Slims of Philadelphia tournament, which begins Monday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Unlike Capriati and Mary Pierce, Davenport didn't grow up in tennis burdened by a dominating father.

During the U.S. Open, veteran Pam Shriver happily commented that Davenport's parents are the only ones she hasn't met among those of the top young players. Davenport's father, Wink, is a former U.S. Olympic volleyball player. Her mother, Ann, is president of the Southern California Volleyball Association.

"My parents never seemed to want to get involved with [tennis]," Davenport said during a recent long-distance call. "My mom

was at the Open the whole time, and you probably wouldn't have known it. They've been great about letting me go play.

"We're a very close family. We don't let the tennis, or their work, or my sisters' volleyball [rule] our lives.

Davenport finished high school last spring before joining the WTA Tour full-time.

"Going to school and seeing my friends was always normal," she said. "I'm very social and didn't want to be away from all that."

The 6-2 Davenport debuted last year in Philadelphia, losing in the second round to Gabriela Sabatini. A year ago, Davenport was a homesick California high school senior. Now, she's a well-adjusted pro.

"I've been practicing in Newport Beach [Calif.] for about five weeks," Davenport said. "I'm eager to get back on the road."

Although Davenport didn't have a memorable 1994 in the four Grand Slams — quarterfinal losses in Australia and at Wimbledon were her best showings — she has established herself as a quality player.

"Overall, it's been a great year," she said. "It was tremendous through the Federation Cup in July. Then I got hurt [pulled calf muscle]. It's been a disappointing

fall. I'm looking forward to ending the year on a good note."

Davenport was seeded sixth in the U.S. Open, but lost to Japan's Mana Endo in the third round. In her only tournament appearance since the Open, she was upset by Nana Miyagi in the round of 16 in Tokyo in late September.

When Davenport left New York, she vowed to improve her serve and agility.

"I'm working on serving harder and taking advantage of my height," she said.

Davenport is more comfortable playing from the baseline. With her size, if she converted to a serve-and-volleyer, she could overwhelm smaller opponents.

"I've been spending three or four days a week in Oakland with a specialist, Don Chu," she said. "I've been doing a lot of weights and sprints. I feel a lot better about myself."

Returning to Philadelphia will reunite Davenport with her friend and doubles partner, Lisa Raymond, of Wayne. The two are fun to watch because they have fun playing together.

Their partnership began at last year's Slims of Philadelphia tournament when neither had a partner.

2042835651

2042835651

1 of 2



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lindsay Davenport has matured in her year on the pro tour

"We had never talked that much, because she's a couple years older than I," Davenport said. "Someone from the USTA helped us play together. After our first match in Philadelphia, we made plans to play the whole year together."

Singles, doubles ... everything's going right for Lindsay Davenport, a rarity in tennis: a normal teenager.

GRAF LETTERMAN GUEST

Top-ranked Steffi Graf is scheduled to appear on "The Late Show With David Letterman" tomorrow night (Channel 10, 11:35 p.m.).

A nagging back injury has prevented Graf from playing since the Open, but she is expected to compete again in Philadelphia. Graf was runner-up to Conchita Martinez in last year's Philly Slims final at the Civic Center. ■

2042835652

Capriati readies return

She'll make Philly Slims first stop after troubles

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

Jennifer Capriati will be playing her first tennis tournament since the 1993 U.S. Open, beginning Monday in Philadelphia.

Capriati yesterday entered the \$750,000 Slims of Philadelphia tournament, starting Monday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Following her personal troubles last spring, Capriati, 18, and her family moved to Palm Desert, Calif. She intended to begin her comeback at two tourna-

ments in Europe last month, but a pulled groin muscle forced her to skip that trip.

Barbara Perry, tournament director for the Slims of Philadelphia, said yesterday when Capriati scheduled the two tournament appearances in Zurich, Switzerland and Filderstadt, Germany, she tentatively talked about playing in a few other tournaments this year.

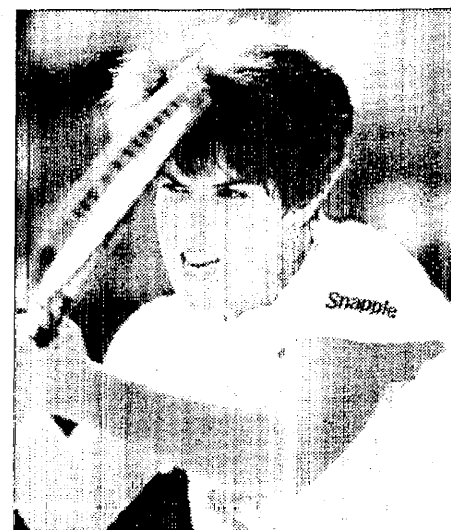
Perry, a senior vice president for racquet sports with International Management Group (IMG), which represents Capriati, said the 1991 U.S. Open and Wimbledon semifinalist called her on Wednesday night.

"She said, 'I'm ready to do it,'" Perry said. "She sounded really excited. It was fun to hear that in her voice."

Capriati was arrested last May in Florida on a misdemeanor charge of marijuana possession. After she underwent a 28-day rehabilitation program at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, the Capriatis moved to California.

When Capriati was just 13 she turned pro. Two years later, she became the youngest female semifinalist at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

In the '93 Open, Capriati was upset in the first round by Leila Meskhi. ■



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Jennifer Capriati: excited

2042835653

Mix: Rodman would mean big headaches

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 4, 1994

DAILY NEWS
PHILADELPHIA, PA

PM - 228,000
SAT - 146,531

by Bill Fleischman

Daily News Sports Writer

If Dennis Rodman should be available for a reunion with Sixers general manager-coach John Lucas, Steve Mix can foresee a headline: "Aspirin stock soars in Philadelphia."

"I'm not convinced that Rodman would be the answer," Mix, the PRISM/SportsChannel analyst, said yesterday, on the eve of the Sixers' opener tonight against Milwaukee (PRISM, 7:30). "If John feels he could put up with that again, and the players feel that it's a good move [it's OK]."

"With Rodman, all of a sudden you become playoff potential. He's a tremendous rebounder. But with the rebounds comes a major headache, and I don't know if there's enough aspirin in the world to solve the headache."

Mix agrees with Lucas that rookies Sharone Wright and B.J. Tyler aren't ready to be NBA regulars yet.

"They're going to be good," Mix said, "but they have to become a little more seasoned. Sharone's first exhibition game was against New York and he had to play against [Charles] Oakley. Then he goes to Houston and plays against [Otis] Thorpe. The first two nights he's shellshocked. Then he had to play center against [Denver's Dikembe] Mutumbo."

Suddenly, Wright must have been thinking, "I'm not at Clemson anymore."

"Tyler is in the toughest spot, running the team," Mix said. "The players have to believe in him."

NFL OFFICIALS RIPPED

ESPN's Joe Theismann and Phil Simms won't be invited to any NFL officials' picnics.

Voicing the opinion of many fans, the ESPN analysts this week hammered the officiating in NFL games this season.

"It's getting worse," Theismann said, "and the trouble is, it's not a

WEEKEND TV FOOTBALL

COLLEGE SATURDAY GAMES

Noon SC Temple at Rutgers
12:30 ESPN Penn State at Indiana
1:00 PRISM Penn at Princeton
3:30 **3** **7** Miami at Syracuse
6:30 SC Washington at Stanford
7:30 ESPN Alabama at LSU
10:30 ESPN Wyoming at Colorado St.
11:00 SC Florida St. at Georgia Tech
(taped)

NFL SUNDAY GAMES

1:00 **3** Colts at Dolphins
1:00 **40** Steelers at Oilers
1:00 **5** 49ers at Redskins
4:00 **29** Cardinals at Eagles
4:00 **40** **1** Bills at Jets
8:00 ESPN Raiders at Chiefs

the "GameDay" panel instead of sitting by himself on the set.

PRISM'S NEW PACKAGE

To fill the void left by the NHL shutdown, PRISM is stocking up on Eagles, minor league hockey, boxing and tennis.

"Inside the Eagles," a weekly half-hour program, debuts Thursday at 7 p.m. Host Howard Eskin will be joined by WIP's Mike Misaneli, Eagles defensive end Greg Townsend and Dave Spadaro, editor of *Eagles Digest*.

PRISM will begin its American Hockey League package Nov. 23 with a Hershey-Cornwall game. A two-hour live boxing special from the Blue Horizon arena will air Dec. 7 at 9 p.m.

Gene Hart will do play-by-play on the Hershey games and punch-by-punch from the Horizon. Gary Dornhoefer, Hart's Flyers telecasting partner, will join him on the Hershey games.

The semifinal round of the Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament will be carried live Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. Chris Evert will be the analyst, with Channel 3's Lou Tilley expected to do play-by-play. Evert and Tilley are working the Slims final Nov. 13 for Channel 3.

2042835654

Saturday, Nov. 5

THE PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

Back injury forces Graf to quit Slims

by Bill Fleischman

Daily News Sports Writer

On Thursday, the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia gained an added attraction when Jennifer Capriati entered the tournament.

Yesterday, the tournament lost a featured player when top-ranked Steffi Graf withdrew. Graf said her ailing back isn't healthy enough for her to play in the \$750,000 event, which begins Monday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Slims of Philadelphia tournament director Barbara Perry said Graf's withdrawal "didn't shock me."

"Obviously, she's been hurting for the last few months," she said. "She had made hotel and plane reservations to be here."

Perry wasn't sure if Graf would try to play in the Slims Championships Nov. 14 to 20 in New York City.

Graf's withdrawal leaves defending Philadelphia champion Conchita Martinez as the top seed. Mary Pierce is No. 2, Lindsay Davenport is third and Gabriela Saba-

tini is fourth.

Capriati, a wild-card entry who hasn't played in a tournament since the 1993 U.S. Open, has drawn a formidable first-round opponent in sixth-seeded Anke Huber. Perry indicated Capriati and Huber will play Tuesday or Wednesday night.

Huber, 19, of Germany, defeated Martina Navratilova and Pierce last month on the way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.

Wayne's Lisa Raymond will face Sandra Cacic in the first round. Raymond, a two-time NCAA titlist, is ranked No. 46; Cacic is No. 51.

Monday's order of play will be decided tomorrow.

Other first-round matches will pit Martinez against Nathalie Tauziat, fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva against Meredith McGrath, seventh-seeded Amy Frazier against Chanda Rubin and eighth-seeded Amanda Coetzer against Meilen Tu.

Pierce, Davenport and Sabatini will face winners of qualifying matches. ■

2042835655

COURIER-POST

Friday,
September 16, 1994

CHUCK BAUSMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

486-2424

SIDELINES

Top female players enter Virginia Slims

PHILADELPHIA — Top-ranked Steffi Graf, Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez and French Open finalist Mary Pierce — three of the world's top five players — and Gabriela Sabatini head the list of early entries in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Mary Joe Fernandez, Natalia Zvereva, Amanda Coetzer and Lisa Raymond will also compete Nov. 7-13 at the Philadelphia Convention Center. The event will feature 32 top singles players and 16 doubles teams, with \$150,000 going to the singles winner.

Tickets, ranging from \$12 to \$35, are available by calling the Virginia Slims Tournament Office at (215) 654-7700.

Road race

PHILADELPHIA — The 17th Annual Philadelphia Distance Run will be held Sunday at 8:30 a.m. over the half marathon distance of 13.1 miles.

Olympic competitors and world champions are entered in the field. The run will start at 18th and Market Streets, continue on Chestnut and through the Parkway, finishing at 17th and Ben Franklin Parkway. Close to 8,000 competitors are expected.

Information of the race is available by calling the Hotline at (215) 293-0786.

D.C. Tire wins

2042835656

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

OCT 19, 1994

COURIER POST
CHERRY HILL, NJ

SUN - 118.360

PM - 128.500

Tennis news 2042835657

● Pam Shriver added her name to the 32-player field which will compete at the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament at the Pennsylvania Convention Center Nov. 7-13.

However, Steffi Graf, the world's top-ranked woman tennis player who also is expected to compete, has pulled out of next week's Nokia Grand Prix because of a lingering back injury.

● Second-seeded Michael Stich of Germany and fourth-seeded Thomas Muster breezed into the second round with easy victories in the \$375,000 CA Trophy tennis tournament.

Stich, ranked third in the world, defeated Russia's Alexander Volkov 6-4, 6-2. In a match that lasted only 57 minutes, Muster, ranked 15th in the world, beat Amos Mansdorf of Israel 6-2, 6-2.

● Fourth-seeded Jim Courier beat Guy Forget, who defeated him at Wimbledon in June, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 to highlight the first round of the \$600,000 Lyon Open.

● Top-seeded Michael Chang began defense of his Salem Open title by defeating Maurice Ruah of Venezuela 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

2042835657

2042835657

NOV 4, 1994

COURIER POST
CHERRY HILL, NJ

SUN - 118,360
PM - 128,500

CA 21

Capriati back for tourney in Phila.

By BUCKY GLEASON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati, refreshed and ready to play tennis again, will return to the women's tour at next week's \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

The 18-year-old has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour, burnt out by tennis and struggling with injuries.

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the Philadelphia event, which runs Nov. 7-13. Her first-round opponent will be determined at today's draw.

"The tournament is coming up at the right time, and she's ready to play," Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director, said. "She's excited. She needed a break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Capriati went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.

The arrest came eight months after Capriati was eliminated from the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open and five months after she was accused of shoplifting at a mall.

"She is coming to Philadelphia to play tennis only," Perry said. "That's all she wants to do and is all she's going to talk about. She just wants to concentrate on tennis right now."

Capriati has spent much of the last 14 months trying to overcome problems that she said stemmed from early stardom.

In 1990, at age 13, she turned professional before the Virginia Slims of Florida. That year, she became the youngest player to reach the semifinals of the French Open and won her first tournament, the Puerto Rico Open.

Perhaps the most heralded young player in women's tennis history, Capriati has won six titles and \$1.5 million in her career. First prize in the Virginia Slims is \$150,000.

She has been working out in Palm Springs, Calif., where she moved with her parents from Florida after her rehabilitation at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach.

Perry would not say whether Capriati is in prime tour condition.

"She's in good shape," Perry said. "She feels she's fit and ready to play. She made the decision, and she knows best."

Capriati had hoped to return to the tour at the European Indoors tournament at Zurich, Switzerland, in September but injured her groin shortly before the event.

"She's playing well," Perry said. "If she's playing in a tournament, she obviously feels like she's hitting the ball well."

2042835658

SPORTS

Capriati draws Huber in first Va. Slims match

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati, returning to pro tennis after a 14-month hiatus, will play a first-round match against sixth-seeded Anke Huber next week in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber, 19, of Germany, defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on the way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.

Other first-round matches will pit first-seeded Conchita Martinez against Nathalie Tauziat, fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva against Meredith McGrath, seventh-seeded Amy Frazier against Chanda Rubin and eighth-seeded Amanda Coetzer against Meilen Tu.

Pierce, seeded second, third-seeded Lindsay Davenport and

TENNIS

fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini will face winners of qualifying matches.

The winner of the tournament will collect \$150,000. Play starts Monday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and continues through Nov. 13.

Capriati accepted one of two wild-card invitations to the tournament, a tuneup to the Virginia Slims Championships in New York.

After turning professional in 1989, Capriati became the youngest player to reach the semifinals of the French Open. She won her first tournament the same year and won the gold medal in women's singles in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

Capriati has spent much of the

last 14 months trying to overcome problems that she said stemmed from early stardom.

Her opening match marks her first event on the tour since the 1993 U.S. Open. She was eliminated in the first round of that tournament and left the tour burned out with tennis and frustrated with injuries.

In December, she was accused of stealing a \$15 ring from a department store while shopping with a friend. She later said she inadvertently walked away from the store and received a citation.

Last May, she was charged with possessing a small amount of marijuana in a motel room. Two of her companions, a 17-year-old runaway girl and a 20-year-old man, were charged with carrying crack cocaine and heroin.

2042835659

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

SEP 16, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70,445

SUN - 86,387

HE 21

Raymond eager for win in Slims

By DAVID PORTER
Staff Writer

2005N

PHILADELPHIA — When Lisa Raymond plays at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, the Wayne, Pa., resident enjoys all the comforts of home. What would be more enjoyable is a win over a top 10 player, something that has eluded her since she turned professional last year.

Raymond could have another chance at that elusive quarry at this year's Slims, which will return in November at a new location, but with the same strong field it has attracted since the event returned to Philadelphia in 1991 after an 11-year absence.

Leading the list of entries is No. 1-ranked Steffi Graf, followed by defending Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez; French Open finalist Mary Pierce; Gabriela Sabatini and Mary Joe Fernandez.

After three years at the Philadelphia Civic Center in University City, the tournament will move

across the Schuylkill River to the new Convention Center in Center City. According to Barbara Perry, the tournament director, the Civic Center wasn't accepting bookings after this year, which necessitated the move.

The Convention Center is an unconventional site for a tennis tournament, but Perry believes the new location will allow more room for peripheral activities.

"Our feeling is that you want to be creating an event," she said yesterday. "We're going to have an interactive area, and displays and booths, which adds to the whole atmosphere."

Naturally, there were details to be ironed out. Like the height of the ceiling in the Convention Center, which is a few feet short of the 40-foot minimum required by the WTA tour. That problem was sur-



Capriati

mounted when a tour representative from Florida inspected the room and pronounced it satisfactory.

Then there was the question of locker rooms; specifically, whether or not they existed. After being told by Convention Center officials that there were none, Perry ultimately received word that, yes, there are locker rooms on-site.

Raymond, who made her first splash when she reached the quarterfinals of the '92 Philly Slims when she was still an amateur, has often seemed on the verge of breaking through and defeating a top-five player but has always fallen just short. Twice this summer she took Graf to three sets, but was defeated.

"I've come close against all the top players, but I still need that first big win," she said yesterday. "Once I get it, it will open up some doors for me."

Adjusting to life on the tour has posed a variety of off-the-court challenges, too.

"You have to pick and choose who you trust. It's really cut-

throat," Raymond said. "There's a lot of backstabbing, the kinds of things you'd see in high school. It's hardened me; it's changed me."

■ ■ ■

Perry wouldn't rule out an appearance at the Slims by 18-year-old Jennifer Capriati, who has said she will return to the tour next month after a 13-month absence during which the former top 10 player underwent drug rehabilitation on two occasions.

"She's been home not doing that much, so she's had time to practice," Perry said. "It's good she's motivated again. A few months ago she wasn't saying anything about coming back this fall. If things go well she'll commit to more tournaments."

If Capriati decides to enter more tournaments this year, it would be a natural for her to play in Philadelphia since Perry represents her for International Management Group (IMG). Capriati played in the Slims in '91, losing to Monica Seles in the final, and in '92, and was scheduled to play last year but withdrew before the tournament.

2042835660

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

SEP 29, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70,445

SUN - 86,387

MIE

21

Two more enter Slims

Lindsay Davenport and Lori McNeil, two top-ranked American tennis players, will play in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia in November, tournament officials announced yesterday.

Davenport, who is the second-highest ranked American player behind Martina Navratilova, is ranked No. 7 and will likely play doubles with Wayne, Pa's Lisa Raymond in addition to singles. McNeil, who upset No. 1-ranked Steffi Graf at Wimbledon this year, is ranked No. 17.

2042835661

SEP 30, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70.445

SUN - 86.387

ME

21

SPORTS

'Doc' knows why players are irked

NEW YORK — Devils voice Mike "Doc" Emrick can understand why the National Hockey League's players aren't fond of Commissioner Gary Bettman.

And he also understands why the owners think Bettman is the greatest thing since sliced bread. The players, yesterday pledging not to strike during the 1994-95 season, in return for no lockout and delay in the campaign's start, were awaiting, last night, Bettman's answer.

Among the players, feelings toward Bettman are bitter, the usual taste of labor negotiations which have failed to bear fruit.

"Well," said Emrick, who shares the SportsChannel New York Devils booth with Peter McNab and Stan Fischler, with a sigh, "if you want to protect your business, there are certain things you have to do."

"Like if you buy a dog. If it's for your kids to play with, a retriever or most other breeds will do. But if it's protection you want, get a doberman."

"When the NHL owners were looking for a commissioner, they needed the doberman, someone to guard the business, give the league the advantage."

And Bettman, as NHL commissioner, has proven to be anything but a dog. He's the owners' guy, carrying out their negotiating plan magnificently, demanding a new labor agreement before the 1994-95 season begins.

BY THE WAY, the NHL officials got nowhere with him during their work stoppage last season.

"I can see how some of the players are quite upset with what's



**JED
WEISBERGER**
In Tune

everyone plays because they love the game. It's still a rural-Canadian, give-an-honest-answer mentality.

"The sides obviously got to get together. The sport is coming off too good a year."

Too bad Emrick, a man who is more than just a broadcaster because he feels the sport he calls so well is so special, isn't in on the negotiations.

DIAL TWISTING: Yesterday, SportsChannel New York took the wraps off a new pregame, halftime and postgame show that will accompany all Devils, Islanders and Nets telecasts this season. Titled "Game Time," hosted by Bob Papa, it will debut at 7 p.m. tomorrow and feature news updates plus on-the-scene remote reports from game sites. Chris Evert will make her return to broadcasting, after the birth of her second son, on KYW's (Channel 3) Nov. 10 telecast of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia final. Evert will join Lou Tilley and Ukee Washington on the telecast.

Jed Weisberger is Times sports media columnist.

2042835662

OCT 9, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70,445

SUN - 86,387

ME

21

SPORTS

Buckaroos are nation's No. 2 3.0 USTA team

The Buckaroos, Washington Crossing's 3.0 USTA League women's team, returned from the national championships with some fond memories — and an impressive second-place finish. Until last Sunday's finals held in Tucson, Ariz., the Bucks County Racquet Club team was undefeated throughout its regular and postseason play.

To reach the finals, the 12-person team defeated teams from Northern California, Pacific Northwest and Mid-Atlantic 4-1 in the five-match format. Their hard-fought loss came at the hands of a team from Austin, Tex., 1-4. As one of 17 teams to qualify, the Buckaroos were representing the USTA/Middle States Section.

According to Nancy Friedman, who was team co-captain along with Mary Matheson of Yardley, the fine national showing capped a brilliant season.

"We had a blast, and it wasn't just the tennis. It was a great tournament," said Friedman, a Pennington resident. "But we really expected to make it to the finals — we had this feeling that we would go all the way."

The team, which was coached by Al Hernandez of the John Wunder Tennis Academy, played their semifinal match at 7:30 a.m. and their finals at 10:30 the same morning, a tough schedule in the 104-degree desert heat. They received engraved silver platters for their effort.

A 3.0 men's team from Hamilton that was based out of Veterans Park did not fare as well. Captained by Mike Dillon and coached by Bob Conti, the team lost its three matches in Tucson but competed well and were just outplayed by younger and stronger teams.

Congratulations to both teams for great seasons.



**ANN
LOPRINZI**
Tennis

The Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, presented by Advanta, is scheduled for Nov. 7-13 at the Convention Center, the tournament's new home. Many of the world's top women players, including Steffi Graf, are scheduled to appear.

Tickets, ranging from \$12 to \$35, are available by calling 215-568-4444. Specials to be aware of are Olive Garden night on Tuesday, USTA night on Wednesday and Ladies Day on Thursday.

During Olive Garden night, a special clinic will be free to night ticket holders. During USTA night, there will be giveaways, an on-court clinic, free T-shirts for anyone who presents a USTA card, and a 6:30 p.m. player autograph-signing session. On Thursday, a luncheon, fashion show, clinic and Q&A session with players is planned.

The following week, Nov. 14-20, will be the Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden. Participating will be the top 16 singles and eight doubles teams to qualify. Tuesday, Nov. 15, is a tribute to Martina Navratilova as she competes in her very last singles tournament. If you include your U.S. Open ticket stub in your order, you can receive a \$6 discount for up to four tickets. For further information, call 212-465-6500.

2042835663

2042835663

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

OCT 19, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70.445

SUN - 86.387

ME

21

Philly Slims grows

2005 N
Amy Frazier, Brenda Schultz,
and Pam Shriver have been add-
ed to the 32-player Virginia Slims
of Philadelphia tournament Nov.
7-13.

Already committed to play in
the event are Steffi Graf, Con-
chita Martinez, Mary Pierce,
Lindsay Davenport, Natalia
Zvereva, Lisa Raymond, Judith
Weisner, Naoko Sawamatsu,
Chanda Rubin and Ann Gross-
man.

2042835664

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

OCT 26, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70.445

SUN - 86.387

MIE 21

Davenport a contrast to Capriati

By DAVID PORTER
Staff Writer

200 JN

Whether or not Jennifer Capriati makes her long-awaited return to competitive tennis at next month's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, the mere possibility has been enough to deflect attention from a player who, at this juncture, is far more deserving of it.

A possible explanation is that in several ways, 18-year-old Californian Lindsay Davenport is everything Capriati wasn't: a well-adjusted, well-spoken young woman who is comfortable with her family, with the demands of her chosen profession, and, most important, with herself.

This isn't exactly the stuff of front-page headlines. Instead, Davenport is usually held up as an example of a player who has been able to retain a "normal" adolescence, in contrast to the cautionary tale of Capriati, also 18, who ended up in a drug rehabilitation center this year several months after dropping off

TENNIS

the tour. Since Capriati entered and then withdrew from a tournament in Switzerland this month, it has been rumored she will play in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

What Capriati and Davenport share is an ability to hit a tennis ball with stunning ferocity. That power has helped the 6-foot-2 Davenport shoot up the Virginia Slims rankings chart to No. 6 in the world this year, which makes her the second-highest ranked American player. When No. 5 Martina Navratilova retires from singles competition next month, Davenport will be the only American in the women's top 10.

DESPITE A highly successful junior career, her rapid rise to the top 10 caught Davenport by surprise.

"I didn't know what to expect. I didn't imagine it would happen so fast," she said during a telephone interview yesterday. "Maybe a little

too fast. It's great to be in the top 10, but it's a little more difficult. Still, it's a great feeling to be there."

There were no strings or asterisks attached to Davenport's ascent; she earned her way into the top 10 by reaching at least the quarterfinals in nine of her first 11 tournaments this year, including titles at Brisbane and Lucerne.

Davenport is aiming to improve on her performance in Philadelphia last year, when she struggled to defeat Hun School graduate Nicole Arendt in the first round before losing to Gabriela Sabatini in the second round. At least the circumstances will be different: Last year, her first as a pro, she admitted that by the time the Slims rolled around, she was anxious to return to California to resume her senior year of high school.

"Last year was sort of a long year," Davenport said. "Knowing that school was in and that I'd already been back and then left again. I was a little homesick in that regard. This year I'm eager to get back out on the road. I've been practicing

at Newport Beach for the last five weeks."

IN CONTRAST to Capriati, who chafed under the autocratic rule of her father, Stefano, Davenport's family life sounds almost like a pilot for an *Ozzie and Harriet* episode. At last month's U.S. Open, Pam Shriver remarked that she couldn't remember ever meeting Davenport's parents, which, she added, probably was a good sign.

"I didn't have a problem with my parents because they never seemed to want to get involved in it," Davenport said. "My mom was at the (U.S.) Open the whole time this year, and you probably wouldn't have known it. It was never something we had to talk about, they just always wanted to take a step back."

Davenport will be joined in the Slims field by Steffi Graf, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and defending champion Conchita Martinez, among others. The tournament, which runs Nov. 7-13, will be played for the first time at the Philadelphia Convention Center.

2042835665

NOV 4, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70,445

SUN - 86,387

HE

21

SPORTS PEOPLE



Capriati



Foreman

Capriati to return in Philly

200 JN
Jennifer Capriati, away from the tennis limelight for more than a year, will return to the tour for next week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

The 18-year-old Capriati has not played competitive tennis since the 1993 U.S. Open. She left the tour after experiencing personal problems and struggling in matches.

Organizers of the \$750,000 tournament said the 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the event, which will run from Monday through the following Sunday. The draw to determine first-round matches is scheduled for today.

In her last match, Capriati lost in the first round of the 1993 Open. Burned out by tennis and despairing over her appearance and relationships, Capriati, who turned pro when she was 13, left the tour.

Capriati said she had nightmares after losing in the Open in 1991 and began crying after she lost in the '93 Open.

She said many of her problems stemmed from turning pro too early.

"I was always expected to be at the top, and if I didn't win, to me that meant I was a loser," she said. "I felt like my parents and everybody else thought that tennis was the way to make it in life, they thought it was good, but I thought no one knew or wanted to know the person who was behind my tennis life."

2042835666

2042835666

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 5, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70,445

SUN - 86,387

ME 21

It's official: Philly Slims marks Capriati's return

By DAVID PORTER
Staff Writer

2003N

TENNIS

PHILADELPHIA — Here's how much Jennifer Capriati's return to the women's tennis tour means to next week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. Not even the news that No. 1 seed Steffi Graf had withdrawn from the tournament yesterday morning was enough to noticeably darken the mood of tournament director Barbara Perry, who announced the 32-player draw at a noon press conference at the Philadelphia Convention Center.

For the benefit of anyone who may have been living under a rock for the last year, Capriati, once the No. 6-ranked player in the world as a 15-year-old, dropped off the tour last fall, overwhelmed by the pressures of her multi-million dollar existence on the pro circuit and yearning for

the life of a normal adolescent. The 18-year-old then launched into a downward spiral that ended in a drug rehabilitation clinic earlier this year.

Capriati originally had planned her return for a tournament in Switzerland last month, but was forced to withdraw with a nagging groin injury. The Slims, which is operated by International Management Group — which employs Perry, who is Capriati's agent — turned into a perfect fit, and Capriati made her decision official on Thursday. She will most likely play Wednesday night, and drew No. 6 seed Anke Huber for her first-round match.

"She called me (Thursday) and she sounded very excited to be playing in Philadelphia," Perry said.

Graf, on the other hand, had committed early to the tournament and had already made hotel reservations, according to Perry. But the German, who is ranked No. 1 in the world, notified Perry yesterday morning that she was withdrawing, citing the recurring back injury that dogged her through the end of the summer and into the fall.

GRAF'S WITHDRAWAL meant that the No. 1 seed will be Conchita Martinez, who defeated Graf in the championship match last year, breaking Graf's 44-match winning streak. The rest of the seeds, in order, are Mary Pierce; Lindsay Davenport; Gabriela Sabatini; Natalia Zvereva; Huber; Amy Frazier and Amanda Coetzer.

Though Capriati will command most of the attention for as long as she stays alive in the tournament, she is not the only teenage phenom

in the draw. The other wild card entry was given to 16-year-old Meilen Tu, a California high school student who won the U.S. Open Juniors title in September, defeating the heralded Swiss player, Martina Hingis.

Tu gave no indication she was interested in turning pro at the Open, but announced her intention to do so before last week's Bank of the West Classic in Oakland, the tournament that also marked the debut of 14-year-old Venus Williams.

Ironically, Capriati may have had an unseen hand in Tu's decision. New age eligibility guidelines adopted by the women's tour will restrict the number of tournaments for players under 18 beginning next year. By turning professional this year, Tu, like Hingis and Williams, will avoid the new restrictions and be able to play an unrestricted schedule next year. Tour officials have ad-

mitted that Capriati's situation brought the age eligibility issue to the forefront.

■ ■ ■

South Brunswick's Nicole Arendt, a Hun School graduate, was slated to play in the tournament, but had to withdraw due to a pulled stomach muscle she aggravated this fall. Last year, Arendt won three rounds of qualifying to get into the main draw before losing in the first round to Lindsay Davenport.

■ ■ ■

The qualifying tournament, which was held at the Northeast Racquet Club last year, is being played today and tomorrow at the Gulph Mills/JKTS Tennis Club in King of Prussia.

Tickets for the main tournament, ranging from \$12 to \$35, are on sale at the Virginia Slims tournament office, at 215-654-7700.

2042835667

NOV 6, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70.445

SUN - 86.387

Promoting Prince Sports products

By TRACEY L. REGAN
Staff Writer

200 IN

Capriati 'in negotiations' to return as spokesperson

BORDENTOWN — Amid reports that tennis player Jennifer Capriati is returning to competition next week at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament, Prince Sports Group is talking about re-signing her to advertise the company's products.

Todd Woodward, a spokesperson for Bordentown-based Prince, said earlier this week that the racket-maker has kept in touch with Capriati since the 1993 U.S. Open, after which she stopped playing and Prince severed its contractual relationship with her.

"We have remained in contact with Jennifer since we stopped the contract. We will be interested in talking to her once she makes a commitment to come back," Woodward said. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

"We had a good relationship with her, and when she gets back on, we'll work with her," he added, describing the company's current relationship with Capriati as "in negotiations."

Woodward said he could not disclose the contract's provisions, including the clauses it would contain governing behavior. Capriati was accused of shoplifting a small item at a department store last December and was charged several months later with possessing a small amount of marijuana. She has since gone through a drug rehabilitation program.

"She is a role model, and as a role model we want her to be someone to look up to," Woodward said, adding, "The strongest thing we have is the way people look at us. Tennis has not been as strong as it has been in years past and it's important that

players create excitement about the game.

"SHE WAS fabulous for us for years. She's been with us since she was 14 years old," he said. "And keep in mind. She's a girl, a young girl, going through the growing process, and it's not as simple as 'she's done this, and so we drop her.'"

A tennis agent who requested anonymity said that most clauses contained standard severance terms including felony arrest, departure from competition and death. The agent said clauses were "very broad," however, making it hard to pinpoint specific behaviors which would allow a company to drop a player.

Bonnie Hagerman, an agent with International Management Group (IMG), said that in the case of a re-

signing, companies typically relied on "the word of the tennis community" about a player's reliability and enduring popularity with the public.

Woodward said the company placed a special value on Capriati and the few others, including Michael Chang, who "grew up playing Prince."

Meanwhile, Prince is also looking to an older generation of tennis stars, some of them no longer even on tour, to advertise their products. Prince recently signed Jimmy Connors, for example.

Woodward said that recent interviews with young people had revealed that many favored the stars of the 1970s and 1980s, a high-profile time for tennis, over some of the current players.

"THESE PEOPLE brought personality to tennis in the grand old

days. They defined the sport," Woodward said. "In terms of the level of discourse, Pete Sampras, for example, is a great player, but Sampras doesn't have the flair."

"Some of the kids had never seen them play. These players are bigger than the sport," he concluded.

Gavin Forbes, an agent with the International Management Group, said he did not think the recent controversies surrounding celebrity endorsers had affected their use by advertisers.

"Companies are going along as they have always gone along. It is proven (that) kids have their idols and that they look to celebrities," Forbes said.

Hagerman noted the cross-over of some tennis celebrities into other fields. She mentioned Chris Evert, who as a mother is now representing health organizations and women's health issues.

2042835666

NEWS JOURNAL
WILMINGTON, DE
DAILY 120,000

WEDNESDAY
OCT 19 1994

23 *BURBELLE'S* ZI
..ceak .b...b

BRIEFLY... IN SPORTS

Hoyas' Iverson allowed to play

MARTIN

TENNIS: Wimbledon champion **Conchita Martinez** lost five of the first six games before overpowering Germany's **Witrud Probst** 7-6 (8-6), 6-0 to reach the second round of the \$400,000 Brighton (England) International indoor tournament.

The Spaniard saved two set points in the opening set before romping to victory over the German and advance to a second-round match today against Austria's **Petra Ritter**.

The 22-year-old right-hander, who replaced top-seeded **Steffi Graf** after the German withdrew because of injuries, will not play on Friday so she can attend her wedding of her coach, **Eric van Harpen**, in Mount Rigi, Switzerland. Assuming Martinez has qualified, she will return to Brighton for Saturday's semifinal.

In another first-round match, **Patty Fendick** won the final six games to upset third-seeded **Mary Joe Fernandez** 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a battle between two Americans that had 12 service breaks.

French Open runner-up **Mary Pierce**, **Gabriela Sabatini** and **Jana Novotna** are the latest players to clinch spots in the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships.

Only the top 16 singles players and the top eight doubles teams qualify for the \$3.5 million tournament, which will be held Nov. 14-20 at Madison Square Garden.

Steffi Graf, **Arantxa Sanchez Vicario**, **Conchita Martinez** and **Martina Navratilova** were the first four players to qualify for the world's richest women's sporting event.

Second-seeded **Michael Stich** of Germany and the local favorite, fourth-seeded **Thomas Muster**, breezed into the second round with easy victories Tuesday in the \$375,000 CA Trophy tournament in Vienna.

Stich, ranked third in the world, defeated Russia's **Alexander Volkov** 6-4, 6-2. In a match that lasted only 57 minutes, Muster, ranked 15th in the world, beat **Amos Mansdorf** of Israel 6-2, 6-2.

Steffi Graf, the world's top-ranked woman's player, has pulled out of next week's Nokia Grand Prix because of a lingering back injury.

Graf is still scheduled to play in the Nov. 7-13 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament spokeswoman **Rebecca Ayars** said.

2042835669

Capriati to play next week in Philly

By **BUCKY GLEASON**

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati, refreshed and ready to play tennis again, will return to the women's tour at next week's \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

The 18-year-old has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour, burned out by tennis and struggling with injuries.

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the Philadelphia event, which runs Nov. 7-13. Her first-round opponent will be determined at today's draw.

"The tournament is coming up

at the right time and she's ready to play," said Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director. "She's excited. She needed a break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Capriati went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.

The arrest came eight months after Capriati was eliminated from the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open and five months after she was accused of shoplifting at a mall.

"She is coming to Philadelphia to play tennis only," Perry said. "That's all she wants to do and is all she's going to talk about. She just wants to concentrate on ten-

nis right now."

Capriati has spent much of the last 14 months trying to overcome problems that she said stemmed from early stardom.

In 1990, at age 13, she turned professional before the Virginia Slims of Florida. That year, she became the youngest player to reach the semifinals of the French Open and won her first tournament, the Puerto Rico Open.

Perhaps the most heralded young player in women's tennis history, Capriati has won six titles and \$1.5 million in her career. First prize in the Virginia Slims is \$150,000.

She has been working out in Palm Springs, Calif., where she

moved with her parents from Florida after her rehabilitation at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach.

Perry would not say whether Capriati is in prime tour condition.

"She's in good shape," Perry said. "She feels she's fit and ready to play. She made the decision, and she knows best."

Capriati had hoped to return to the tour at the European Indoors tournament in Zurich, Switzerland, in September, but injured her groin shortly before the event.

"She's playing well," Perry said. "If she's playing in a tournament, she obviously feels like she's hitting the ball well."

NEWS JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, DE
DAILY 120,000

FRIDAY
NOV 4 1994

23
...ceak BURRELLE'S .b...b ZI



AP
Capriati will return to the tour in Philadelphia.

NEWS JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, DE
DAILY 120,000

SATURDAY
NOV 5 1994

23 BURRELLE'S .b...b
ceak .b...b

TENNIS

Capriati to open vs. Huber

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati, returning to pro tennis after a six-month hiatus, will play a first-round match against sixth-seeded Anke Huber next week in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber, 19, of Germany, defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on the way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.

Other first-round matches will pit first-seeded Conchita Martinez against Nathalie Tauziat, fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva against Meredith McGrath, seventh-seeded Amy Frazier against Chanda Rubin and eighth-seeded Amanda Coetzer against Meilen Tu.

Pierce, seeded second, third-seeded Lindsay Davenport and fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini will face winners of qualifying matches.

The winner of the tournament will collect \$150,000. Play starts Monday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and continues through Nov. 13.

Capriati accepted one of two wild-card invitations to the tournament, a tuneup to the Virginia Slims Championships in New York.

2042835671

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26

Davenport set to ascend throne

By BRUCE MOWDAY
Staff Writer

The queen-to-be of women's professional tennis in the United States will need less than two years to reach her exalted position.

If 37-year-old Martina Naratillova retires from the tour at the end of the year as she has announced, Lindsay Davenport will take over as the highest ranked American player.

"I didn't think it would happen this fast," Davenport said Tuesday from her home in Palos Verdes, Calif., during a telephone interview. "I didn't know what to expect."

Davenport, who turned 18 in June, played her first professional tournament on Feb. 22, 1993. She is now ranked seventh in the world and has won \$391,120 this year.

Her two-year total is \$639,653.

Davenport and her doubles partner, Lisa Raymond of Wayne, will take part in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament at the Civic Center from Nov. 7-13.

Last year in Philadelphia, Davenport and Raymond first played together and now they are one of the top ranked teams in the world.

"We each went to Philadelphia without a partner. ... We played well and we knew we would get along," Davenport said of Raymond. "She is one of my best friends."

Raymond, just a year out of college, has recently been ranked in the top 50 singles players in the world. Raymond has won \$193,503 so far this year.

Davenport said she hopes to do better this year in Philadelphia as her only other appearance ended in an early-round defeat to Gabriela Sabatini.

The quick rise through the rankings might have been a little too fast for Davenport. "It's been great, but it also has been difficult."

She said she has felt a little pres-

sure after becoming one of the young stars on the tour.

With Naratillova set to retire, Monica Seles still out after being stabbed more than a year ago and Jennifer Capriati taking time off due to personal problems, Davenport is expected to continue to shine.

"You have to deal with it (pressure)," she said.

Professional tennis, according to some experts, is in trouble with many fans because of on-and-off court problems of the players, but Davenport said she believes the players now realize they must do something to save the game.

"Something just clicked in," Davenport said of the women professionals after a meeting at Wimbledon this past summer.

On a personal level, Davenport said "overall" 1994 was a good year for her. She won singles crowns at Brisbane and Lucerne and one in doubles at Indian Wells. At the French Open, she reached the finals with Raymond.

Davenport said she is not looking for advancement in the rankings as an indication that she is improving. She said she wanted to have better showings in the big tournaments. Her best showing in a Grand Slam event was at the U.S. Open this year when she advanced to the fourth round.

One of the bigger players on the tour (she is 6 feet 2 inches tall), Davenport said she has been working on using her height to improve her serve. She has also been doing more conditioning work.

She also said she has recovered from a pulled muscle she suffered during a tournament in San Diego, Calif., this year. "I never had a bad injury before. I couldn't walk the next day. In a couple of weeks it got better."

Joining Davenport, Raymond and Sabatini in the 32-player field, will be past champion Steffi Graf, defending champion Conchita Martinez, Mary Pierce and Natalia Zvereva.

Also committed to the tournament are Amy Frazier, Brenda Schultz, Pam Shriver and Lori McNeil.

ATTENTION BUSINESS LOANS

Secure with Real Estate
Mixed use Apartments -
Taverns - Restaurants, etc.
\$20,000 to \$1,000,000 or more
Call Eastern States Financial
1-378-0411

GOLD'S GYM.

OF COATESVILLE

★ OCTOBER SPECIAL ★



Only
\$1⁰⁰ a day
Full membership
you decide how long!

Available to the
First 50
First Time
Members Only!

Above Offers will be accepted
through Monday, October 31, 1994

70 S. 3rd Ave., Coatesville

380-GOLD

2042835672

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE
NOV 4, 1994
DAILY / SUNDAY
LOCAL NEWS
WEST CHESTER, PA
PM - 28.733
SUN - 35.677
CH 2

Capriati to try to comeback in Philadelphia

By BRUCE MOWDAY
Staff Writer

The troubled women's professional tennis association is receiving a needed boost.

Jennifer Capriati, away from the tour for more than a year after experiencing several arrests, will play next week at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia

a event, tournament officials said Thursday.

With Capriati off the tour with her personal problems, Monica Seles not playing after being stabbed at a tournament in Germany and Martina Navratilova retiring, the tour was reeling.

The last time

Capriati, 18, played competitive tennis was the 1993 U.S. Open. She won six championships during her professional career and also won a Gold Medal at the 1992 Summer Olympics at Barcelona.

Capriati turned professional at the age of 13 during a tournament in Florida in March 1990.

The week-long Philadelphia tournament begins Monday, but Capriati's first opponent won't be determined until today when the draw will take place. The time of her first match won't be disclosed until Sunday.

Organizers of the \$750,000 tournament said Capriati accepted a wild-card invitation.

In her last match, Capriati lost in the first round of the 1993 Open. Burned out by tennis and despairing over her appearance and relationships, Capriati left the

tour. Capriati said she had nightmares after losing in the Open in 1991 and began crying after she lost in the '93 Open. She said many of her problems stemmed from turning pro too early.

"I was always expected to be at the top, and if I didn't win, to me that meant I was a loser," she said. "I felt like my parents and everybody else

thought that tennis was the way to make it in life, they thought it was good, but I thought no one knew or wanted to know the person who was behind my tennis life."

Last November, Capriati moved into her own apartment at Boca Raton, Fla. Her legal

problems began Dec. 10, 1993, when she was arrested for shoplifting; she says she accidentally took a ring from a store.

On May 16, she was arrested in a Coral Gables, Fla., motel and charged with a misdemeanor drug possession. She went into a 28-day treatment program at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, Fla.

Capriati, after having not touched a racket for months, said she realized last winter that she wanted to play tennis again.

"It wasn't like I wanted to go back to it yet," she said. "But when I thought about the Slams, I always thought, 'I'll be there again.'"

Also entered are the world's No. 1 player, Steffi Graf, Conchita Martinez, Gabriela Sabatini and Mary Pierce.

(The Associated Press contributed to this story.)

**The week-long
Virginia Slims
Philadelphia
tournament begins
Monday, but
Capriati's first
opponent won't be
determined until
today when the draw
will take place. The
time of her first
match won't be
disclosed until
Sunday.**

2042835673

2042835673

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

SEP 14, 1994

BUCKS COUNTY
COURIER-TIMES
LEVITTOWN, PA

SUN - 71.497

DLY - 64.375

BU 2

Tennis

■ The Interfaith Housing Seniors' Tennis Tournament will be held on Sept. 24 at the Frosty Hollow Tennis Center, Levittown. Proceeds from the event will be used for construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing for low and moderate income families. For tournament information, call 295-0823.

■ Amateur women's doubles teams can participate this fall at the "Ham Sweet Ham Tiebreak Tournaments" — an annual series of events leading up to the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. Hosted by tennis clubs throughout the area, the Tiebreak Tournaments benefit the USTA/Middle States Section Recreational Programs. The Virginia Slims comes to the Philadelphia Convention Center No. 7-13.

Doubles teams will participate in the Tiebreak Format, with

consists of two-out-of-three 12-point tiebreak sets in a single-elimination draw. The local winning teams will advance to the finals, held during the Virginia Slims tournament. All participants receive prizes, a T-shirt, and a ticket to the Virginia Slims. The event begins tomorrow at the Magarity Tennis Club in Flourtown. Amateur women, 21 and over, are eligible to participate. For information and host sites, call 654-7700.

2042835674

Capriati's return to court will

By Bucky Gleason

Associated Press Writer

2005N

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati will return to the women's tennis tour beginning with the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia next week.

The 18-year-old Capriati has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour after experiencing personal problems and struggling in matches.

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the event, which will be played in the Civic Center, Nov.

Philly Slims facts

■ **Who's coming:** Steffi Graf, Conchita Martinez, Gabriela Sabatini, Mary Pierce, Lindsay Davenport, Natalia Zvereva and Lisa Raymond will be at the Civic Center Nov. 7-13 in the \$750,000 event (\$150,000 to the singles winner).

■ **For ticket information:** call 215-654-7700.

7-13. A draw today will determine first-round matches.

"The tournament is coming up at the right time, and she's ready

to play," said Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director. "She's excited. She needed a break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Capriati went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.

The arrest came eight months after Capriati was eliminated from the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open and five months after she was accused of shoplifting at a mall.

A gold medal winner in women's singles at the 1992 Olym-

pics, Capriati has won six titles and \$1.5 million in her career. First prize in the Virginia Slims is \$150,000.

"She is coming to Philadelphia to play tennis only," Perry said. "That's all she wants to do and is all she's going to talk about. She just wants to concentrate on tennis right now."

Capriati has spent much of the last 14 months trying to overcome problems that she said were started by her early stardom.

In 1990, at age 13, she turned professional before the Virginia

come in Philly

Slims of Florida. That year, she became the youngest player to reach the semifinals of the French Open and won her first tournament, the Puerto Rico Open.

Perhaps the most heralded young player in women's tennis history, Capriati has signed endorsement contracts worth millions of dollars since her career began.

She has been working out in Palm Springs, Calif., where she moved with her parents from Florida after her rehabilitation at Mount Sinai Medical Center in

Miami Beach. Perry would not say whether Capriati was in prime tour condition.

"She's in good shape," Perry said. "She feels she's fit and ready to play. She made the decision, and she knows best."

Capriati had hoped to return to the tour at the European Indoors tournament at Zurich, Switzerland, in September but aggravated a groin muscle during a practice session shortly before the event.

"She's playing well," Perry said. "If she's playing in a tournament, she obviously feels like she's hitting the ball well."

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE
NOV 4, 1994

BUCKS COUNTY
COURIER-TIMES
LEVITTOWN, PA

SUN - 71.497
DLY - 64.375

TENNIS

Capriati's revival to start here

2005N

Times staff and wire reports

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati has chosen Philadelphia for her return to the women's tennis tour.

She'll participate in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, to be held at the Civic Center next week.

The 18-year-old Capriati has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour after experiencing personal problems and struggling in matches.

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the event, which runs Nov. 7-13. The draw to determine first-round matches is scheduled for today.

"The tournament is coming up at the right time, and she's ready to play," said Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director. "She's excited. She needed a break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Capriati went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.

The arrest came eight months after Capriati was eliminated from the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open and five months after she was accused of shoplifting at a mall.

A gold medal winner in women's singles at the 1992 Olympics, Capriati has won six titles and \$1.5 million in her career. First prize in the Virginia Slims is \$150,000.

"She is coming to Philadelphia to play tennis only," Perry said. "That's all she wants to do and is all she's going to talk about. She just wants to concentrate on tennis right now."

MUTUAL

PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 4, 1994

DELAWARE COUNTY

DAILY TIMES

PRIMOS, PA

AM - 60.000

Capriati has spent much of the last 14 months trying to overcome problems that she said were started by her early stardom.

In 1990, at age 13, she turned professional before the Virginia Slims of Florida. That year, she became the youngest player to reach the semifinals of the French Open and won her first tournament, the Puerto Rico Open.

Perhaps the most heralded young player in women's tennis history, Capriati has signed endorsement contracts worth millions of dollars since her career began.

She has been working out in Palm Springs, Calif., where she moved with her parents from Florida after her rehabilitation at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. Perry would not say whether Capriati was in prime tour condition.

"She's in good shape," Perry said. "She feels she's fit and ready to play. She made the decision, and she knows best."

Capriati had hoped to return to the tour at the European Indoors tournament at Zurich, Switzerland, in September but aggravated a groin muscle during a practice session shortly before the event.

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 4, 1994

BURLINGTON COUNTY
TIMES
WILLINGBORO, NJ

PM - 42,000
SUN - 47,000

BJJ 21

Tennis: Capriati playing in Phila.

Jennifer Capriati will return to the women's tennis tour, beginning with the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia next week.

The 18-year-old Capriati has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour after experiencing personal problems and struggling in matches.

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the Philadelphia Slims event, which starts Monday.

"The tournament is coming up at the right time, and she's ready to play," said Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director. "She's excited. She needed a break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Boris Becker, thundering aces right from the start, beat **Guy Forget**, 7-5, 7-6 (7-3), to advance to the quarterfinals in the \$2.25 million Paris Open.

Becker, a three-time champion who won last week in Sweden, produced 22 aces, including his first seven service points.

Also winning third-round matches were No. 1 seed **Pete Sampras**, defending tournament champion **Goran Ivanisevic** and **Andre Agassi**. Others to advance were **Sergi Bruguera**, **Petr Korda** and **Marc Rosset**.

2042835677

BURLINGTON COUNTY
TIMES
WILLINGBORO, NJ

PM - 42.000
SUN - 47.000

All eyes will be on Philadelphia and Capriati

Associated Press

200IN

TENNIS

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati will use the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia as the first step in trying to rebuild a career threatened by legal problems, burnout and injuries — all before her 19th birthday.

Much of the sports world, which thought her career was in jeopardy only six months ago, will be watching closely this week to see how well — or poorly — Capriati plays against sixth-seeded Anke Huber in her first match.

Capriati, who has refused interview requests, has been eager for months to get back to the tour. She planned to play in the European Indoors at Zurich, Switzerland, in September, but pulled out with a groin injury.

She is scheduled to play Huber tomorrow or Tuesday.

"It's great to have her back," said Barbara Perry, Capriati's agent and the tournament director. "She's a great player, and the fans love her. You can't ask for any more than that."

In her last tournament, the 1993 U.S. Open, Capriati lost in the first round to Leila Meshki, a lesser-known long shot. Citing burnout and injuries, Capriati took a break from the tour immediately after that loss and returned to high school in Florida.

Last December, she was given a citation for walking away from a department store with a \$15 ring. In May, Capriati was charged with possessing a small amount of marijuana while two companions were

arrested for carrying crack cocaine and heroin in Coral Gables, Fla.

Her career, which included six victories, was indefinitely postponed while Women's Tennis Association re-examined whether age limits should be enacted on the women's tour.

Capriati went through a 28-day drug treatment program, and moved in with her parents to Palm Springs, Calif.

Capriati, now 18, has been practicing with tennis guru Jose Higueras at the exclusive Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Higueras will accompany Capriati to Philadelphia.

"There's a lot of interest in

seeing her play," Perry said. "She's excited that this has been the reaction. I think we're all looking forward to the week."

Huber, 19, of Germany, defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on the way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.

If Capriati wins her first match, she most likely will play Lisa Raymond in the second round. Defending champion and top seed Conchita Martinez is also in Capriati's bracket.

Martinez became the No. 1 seed after Steffi Graf pulled out of the tournament with a lower back problem, which has plagued her

since she lost in the finals of U.S. Open.

Slims officials were uncertain whether she would be able to play in their championships in New York.

Other first-round matches will pit Martinez against Nathalie Pietrangeli, fifth-seeded Natalia Pietrangeli against Meredith McGrath, eighth-seeded Amy Frazier against Conchita Rubin and eighth-seeded Andreea Coetzter against Meilen Tu.

Also playing in the tournament are Pierce, Lindsay Davenport and Gabriela Sabatini. The winner of the \$750,000 tournament will run tomorrow through Wednesday, and will receive \$150,000.

2042835678

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 5, 1994

THE MERCURY
POTTSTOWN, PA

SUN - 31,626

AM - 23,621

HG

2

Capriati to return against Huber

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jennifer Capriati, returning to pro tennis after a 14-month hiatus, will play a first-round match against sixth-seeded Anke Huber next week in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber, 19, of Germany, defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on the way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.

Other first-round matches will pit first-seeded Conchita Martinez against Nathalie Tauziat, fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva against Meredith McGrath, seventh-seeded Amy Frazier against Chanda Rubin and eighth-seeded Amanda Coetzer against Meilen Tu.

Pierce, seeded second, third-

seeded Lindsay Davenport and fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini will face winners of qualifying matches.

The winner of the tournament will collect \$150,000. Play starts Monday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and continues through Nov. 13.

Capriati accepted one of two wild-card invitations to the tournament, a tuneup to the Virginia Slims Championships in New York.

After turning professional in 1989, Capriati became the youngest player to reach the semifinals of the French Open. She won her first tournament the same year and won the gold medal in women's singles in the 1992 Olympics in Barce-

lona, Spain.

Capriati has spent much of the last 14 months trying to overcome problems that she said stemmed from early stardom.

Her opening match marks her first event on the tour since the 1993 U.S. Open. She was eliminated in the first round of that tournament and left the tour burned out with tennis and frustrated with injuries.

In December, she was accused of stealing a \$15 ring from a department store while shopping with a friend. She later said she inadvertently walked away from the store

and received a citation.

Last May, she was charged with possessing a small amount of marijuana in a motel room. Two of her companions, a 17-year-old runaway girl and a 20-year-old man, were charged with carrying crack cocaine and heroin.

Capriati had hoped to return to the tour at the European Indoors tournament at Zurich, Switzerland, in September. But she withdrew after injuring a groin muscle shortly before the event.

Her agent, Barbara Perry, who also is the tournament director, described Capriati as "fit now and ready to go."

2042835679

NOV 6, 1994

THE TRENTONIAN
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 66.5¢
SUN - 74.00¢

Sports Digest

Capriati's return slated for Philadelphia Slims

Trentonian wire reports
PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati will use the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia as her first stab at rebuilding a career threatened by legal problems, burnout and injuries — all before her 19th birthday.

Much of the sports world, which thought her career was in jeopardy only six months ago, will be watching closely this week to see how well — of poorly — Capriati plays against sixth-seeded

Anke Huber in CAPRIATI
her first match.

Capriati, who has refused interview requests, has been eager for months to get back to the tour. She planned to play in the European Indoors at Zurich, Switzerland, in September, but pulled out with a groin injury.

She is scheduled to play Huber on tomorrow or Tuesday.

In her last tournament, the 1993 U.S. Open, Capriati was bounced out in the first round by **Leila Meshki**, a lesser-known long shot. Citing burnout and injuries, Capriati took a break from the tour immediately after that loss and returned to high school in Florida.

Last December, she was given a citation for walking away from a department store with a \$15 ring. In May, Capriati was charged with possessing a small amount of marijuana while two companions were arrested for carrying crack cocaine and heroin in Coral Gables, Fla.

OAKLAND, Calif. — **Martina Navratilova** rallied once again in the Bank of the West Classic, surviving 15 aces

Arturo Barrios of Boulder, Colo., who became a citizen Sept. 16, and **Olga Appell** of Albuquerque, who became a citizen Feb. 25, are solid favorites to win the men's and women's divisions of the 26-mile, 385-yard race around the Big Apple.

For either one, that would mean a first prize of \$20,000 and a bonus of \$120,000 as a U.S. winner of the race.

Golf: Funk leads tourney

BRASELTON, Ga. — **Fred Funk** shot a 6-under-par 66 to grab a two-shot lead after three rounds of the inaugural \$1.9 Sarazen World Open Championship.

Taking a 204 total into the final round, Funk said he was hoping to put out of his mind the \$350,000 that awaits the winner, and concentrate on his game.

Funk, who qualified for this tournament by winning the 1993 Mexican Open, was nearly perfect over the 6,955-yard The Legends at Chateau Elan course with the six birdies without a bogey.

The 38-year-old, whose only win in six years on the PGA Tour is the 1992 Houston Open, led **Miguel Angel Jimenez** of Spain by two shots. Jimenez had a 68 yesterday.

The tournament is limited to national open champions from around the world in the last two years and drew a field of 74 golfers from 48 countries, including 15 Americans.

KAPALUA, Hawaii — **Bob Gilder** mastered the gusting winds at the long and wide Plantation Course with a 2-under-par 71 and took a one-stroke lead over defending champion **Fred Couples** after three rounds of the \$1 million Kapalua International.

With winds blowing up to 40 mph, Gilder, who started the day two strokes behind leader Tom



Roxy's Line

CIRCULAR REPORT: The circle around the Chargers-Falcons game is for the doubtful status of San Diego QB Stan Humphries.

BLACK & BLUE REPORT: Cleveland QB Vinny Testaverde is out, and Cincinnati QB David Klingler is questionable.

National Football League		
Favorite	Points	Underdog
49ers	10	REDSKINS
PACKERS	5 1/2	Lions
DOLPHINS	9 1/2	Colts
Steelers	3	OILERS
FALCONS	(2 1/2)	Chargers
BROWNS	3	Patriots
VIKINGS	9	Saints
Bears	3	BUCC
Bills	3	JETS
EAGLES	6 1/2	Cards
SEAHAWKS	7 1/2	Bengals
Broncos	3	RAMS
CHIEFS	3 1/2	Raiders
Tomorrow		
COWBOYS	13 1/2	Giants
Home team in CAPS		

Roxy's Hotline

Odds updated daily at noon and 6 p.m. Callers will be charged 95 cents per minute.

1-900-329-ROXY

Boxing: Mathis stops McDowell

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Nev. — **Buster Mathis, Jr.**, scored his first knockout in nine fights, stopping **Lyle McDowell** 46 seconds into the fifth round in his first defense of the USBA heavy-weight title.

■ **CALETA OLIVIA, Argentina** — **Jorge Castro** of Argentina retained his WBA middleweight title, knocking out **Alex Ramos** in the second round.

NHL: Rent due

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Hockey or no hockey, the city of Buffalo is expecting rent payments on Memorial Auditorium from the Sabres.

The team's lease with the Aud does not have a clause protecting it against labor disputes, according to city corporation counsel **Ed Peace**. Without one, the Sabres' first quarterly payment of \$437,000 is due Dec. 1.

Autos: Pole-sitter spins

SUZUKA, Japan — Bad weather threw an element of

2042835680

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 4, 1994

THE REPORTER
LANSDALE, PA

PM - 19.218

MS

2

Capriati returning in Philly

By **BUCKY GLEASON**
The Associated Press

200JN

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati will return to the women's tennis tour beginning with the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia next week.

The 18-year-old Capriati has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour after experiencing personal problems and struggling in matches.

TENNIS

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the event, which runs Nov. 7-13. The draw to determine first-round matches is scheduled for Friday.

"The tournament is coming up at the right time, and she's ready to play," said Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director. "She's excited. She needed a

break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Capriati went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.

The arrest came eight months after Capriati was eliminated from the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open and five months after she was accused of shoplifting at a mall.

2042835681

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

OCT 18, 1994

PHILADELPHIA
TRIBUNE
PHILADELPHIA, PA

BIWKLY - 73,000

PH

1

Two berths open in Slims tennis

200 JN
When the women's tennis pros arrive for the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia next month, tournament director Barbara Perry will have two wild-card berths at her disposal.

She can pick anybody to fill out the 32-player draw at the new Pennsylvania Convention Center. They could be national figures such as Tracy Austin and Martina Navratilova. They could be local players such as Tonya Evans and Traci Green.

The \$750,000 tournament will take place Nov. 7-13 at the large facility at 12th and Arch Streets.

Perry won't make a wild-card decision this week because she is honeymooning. The wedding was Saturday, making Perry unavailable for comment.

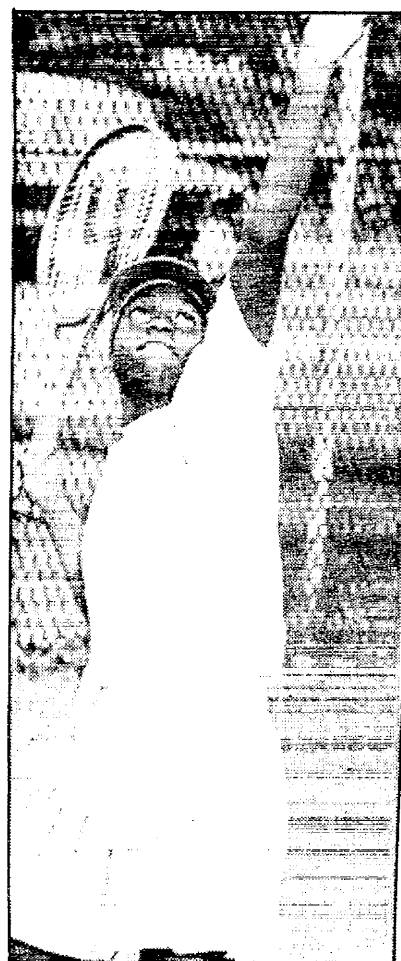
Tonya Evans, a 23-year-old pro,

and Traci Green, the top 16-year-old amateur in the Middle States, would love to compete in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. They set gleaming examples for African-American tennis prospects in their home city.

This year's tournament will feature Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez, superstar Steffi Graf (if her back feels better), French Open runnerup Mary Pierce and former U.S. Open champ Gabriella Sabatini. The latter has started to play better after a long dry spell.

Lori McNeil and Chanda Rubin are definitely in, but Zina Garrison-Jackson is not.

Most of the top women like to play Philadelphia as a warmup to the Virginia Slims Championships in New York. This is the final year of the cigarette sponsorship.



Traci Green: wild card?

2042835682

SEP 29, 1994

MAIN LINE TIMES
ARDMORE, PA

WKLY - 18.009

H3

2

Alumni Update

Lisa Raymond Heads Home For Virginia Slims

2005N
By BOBBY CABREY
Sports Editor

Academy of Notre Dame graduate Lisa Raymond will return home once again as one of the big draws in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia field.

Some of the best and the brightest stars of women's tennis will appear in the tournament, including Top-ranked Steffi Graff, Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez and French Open finalist Mary Pierce.

The tournament will take place at the new Pennsylvania Convention Center Nov. 7 through Nov. 13. It will feature 32 of the top women's singles players and 16 doubles teams.

Raymond, the two-time NCAA singles champion at Florida, continues to make strides on the pro-circuit. This past summer, she twice tested Graff — first in the finals of an exhibition tourney and then at the Mazda Tennis Classic, where she took a set from the world's top-ranked player. Raymond is ranked 48th in the world.

Tickets for the tournament are on sale now. For information call 654-7700.

Men's Soccer

Lower Merion graduate John Howard continues to do what he does best — score goals to win soccer games.

Howard, a junior midfielder for NCAA Division III powerhouse Ohio Wesleyan, tipped in a goal to help lift OWU over Illinois Benedictine to win the Fred Myers Invitational.

The Bishops are off to a 2-0 start. Howard is joined by Haverford School grad Harrison Jacobs, who last season led the North Coast Athletic Conference in goals per game with .65.

Last year, Ohio Wesleyan went 13-2-1 but failed to reach the NCAA final four for the first time in four years.

Radnor grad Alan Mezger collected an assist in Villanova's 2-1 loss to Howard University. The Cats have lost their first two games of the season.



LISA RAYMOND

Kate McIlvain and Lower Merion grad Jennifer Cohlberg.

McIlvain, a sophomore, is a returning starter on defense while Cohlberg is another sophomore hoping to break into the starting line up.

Bucknell went 6-12 last season.

Villa Maria graduate Laurie DiPietro is a junior midfielder for the West Chester University field hockey team.

The former All-Main Line pick is a two-time letter winner and also plays lacrosse at West Chester.

Yet another Villa Maria graduate is making her mark in the collegiate field hockey ranks.

Durkin, a junior forward at Lafayette, recently earned Patriot League Offensive Player of the Week honors after scoring three goals in one week.

Durkin knocked in two goals in a 2-0 win over LaSalle and added another in a 3-2 win over West Chester. In 43 career games, Durkin has knocked in 20 goals and passed for seven assists for 47 points.

Football

Radnor grad Ken Davies is a returning starter for the Millersville University football team.

Another former All-Main Line player, Lower Merion's Adam Collachi, is playing right tackle for West Chester University's offensive line. Collachi transferred to West Chester after beginning his career at Tulsa.

Three former Malvern Prep graduates are suiting up for the Ursinus College football team. Freshmen Mike Brennan and Rick Colvin join former Friar and sophomore John Dwyer on the Bears team, which went 5-4 last season.

Brennan is an offensive lineman for the Bears and is expected to see mostly junior varsity action this year. Dwyer enters the season as a second string linebacker while Colvin is expected to see time on the junior varsity as a tight end.

Women's Soccer

Akiba Hebrew graduate Jennifer Etkin is a sophomore midfielder for the Washington University women's soccer team. The team finished 4-14 last season in a rebuilding year.

Cross Country

Several former Main Line runners are competing for the West Chester University cross country team this fall.

Dave Keefe, a junior who competed for Devon Prep's outstanding cross country program is now a junior with the Golden Rams. Haverford High graduate Megan Fox is a sophomore member of the team.

(Editor's note: Information for alumni update is supplied by college sports information offices. Please have information sent to Sports Editor Bobbi Cabrey, Main Line Times, 311 E. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, 19003 or FAXED to 642-9704.

2042835683

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 4, 1994

MORNING CALL
ALLENTOWN, PA

AM - 138,153
SUN - 186,241
LE 4

TENNIS

Capriati to return in Slims of Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - 2003N
Jennifer Capriati will return to the women's tennis tour beginning with the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia next week.

The 18-year-old Capriati has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour after experiencing personal problems and struggling in matches.

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the event, which runs Nov. 7-13. The draw to determine first-round matches is scheduled for Friday.

"The tournament is coming up at the right time, and she's ready to play," said Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director. "She's excited. She needed a break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Capriati went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.

The arrest came eight months after Capriati was eliminated from the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open and five months after she was accused of shoplifting at a

mall.

A gold medal winner in women's singles at the 1992 Olympics, Capriati has won six titles and \$1.5 million in her career. First prize in the Virginia Slims is \$150,000.

"She is coming to Philadelphia to play tennis only," Perry said. "That's all she wants to do and is all she's going to talk about. She just wants to concentrate on tennis right now."

Capriati has spent much of the last 14 months trying to overcome problems that she said were started by her early stardom.

In 1990, at age 13, she turned professional before the Virginia Slims of Florida. That year, she became the youngest player to reach the semifinals of the French Open and won her first tournament, the Puerto Rico Open.

2042835684

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 4, 1994

READING EAGLE
READING, PA

PM - 79,000
SUN - 117,000
B2

Capriati returns to courts next week in Philadelphia

■ Jennifer Capriati to
play in Virginia Slims
event. Also, George
Foreman trims down to
250 pounds for his fight
Saturday with
heavyweight champion
Michael Moorer.

From our news services *WJN*
Jennifer Capriati, refreshed
and ready to play tennis again,
will return to the women's tour
at next week's \$750,000 Virginia
Slims of Philadelphia.

The 18-year-old has not
played competitive tennis since
the U.S. Open in 1993, when she
left the tour, burnt out by tennis
and struggling with injuries.

The 1992 Olympic champion
accepted a wild-card invitation
to the Philadelphia event, which
runs Nov. 7-13. Her first-round
opponent will be determined at
today's draw.

"The tournament is coming
up at the right time, and she's
ready to play," said Barbara
Perry, her agent and the tourna-
ment director. "She's excited.
She needed a break from tennis,
and she's fresh and ready to
go."

Capriati went through a 28-
day drug rehabilitation program
after she was charged with mis-
demeanor drug possession last
May.

2042835685

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE
NOV 5, 1994

READING
EAGLE / TIMES
READING, PA

SAT - \$0.700

Moorer, Father Time are foes of Foreman

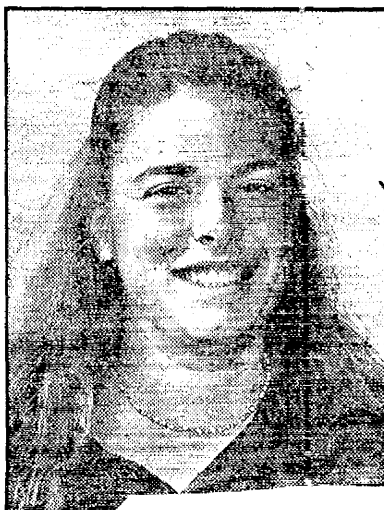
■ George Foreman, 45, looks for a little magic tonight in Vegas for heavyweight bout with champ Michael Moorer.

From our news services

In Las Vegas, a town where renowned magicians often grace showroom stages, George Foreman — a would-be Merlin with a punch — will attempt some sleight of hand in a boxing ring.

Big George will try to break the shackles attached by Father Time, solve the mysteries of Michael Moorer's left-handed style and become a heavyweight champion again a little more than

DIGEST 200 JN



Three-time champion Boris Becker and defending champion Goran Ivansievic also lost. Marc Rosset edged Becker in a hard-serving contest 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (9-7) and Chang upset Ivanisevic 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

Fourth-seeded Sergi Bruguera joined Chang in the semifinals by beating unseeded Czech Petr Korda 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

■ Jennifer Capriati, returning to pro tennis after a 14-month hiatus, will play a first-round match against sixth-seeded Anke Huber next week in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Berks report

2042835686

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 4, 1994

THE PRESS
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

AM - 76,000

SUN - 71,000

RT

21

200JN * * *
Jennifer Capriati, refreshed and ready to play tennis again, will return to the women's tour at next week's \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.
The 18-year-old has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour, burnt out by tennis and struggling with injuries.

2042835687

NOV 4, 1994

THE SCRANTON TIMES
SCRANTON, PA

PM - 56,000

Capriati Will Play in Philly Tourney

200 JN
BY BUCKY GLEASON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — After 28 days of drug rehabilitation and months of trouble, Jennifer Capriati is ready to resume her career beginning with the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Arrested by police six months ago for misdemeanor drug possession in a Coral Gables, Fla., motel room, Capriati's career and personal life came crashing down.

"The tournament is coming up at the right time, and she's ready to play," said Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director. "She's excited. She needed a break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Capriati accepted one of two wild card invitations to the tournament, which runs Monday through Nov. 13 and is considered a tuneup to the Virginia Slims Championships in New York.

The draw to determine first-round matches was scheduled for 12:30 p.m. today. First prize is \$150,000.

Capriati was practicing with coach Jose Higuera at the exclusive Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif., on Thursday. Capriati has been working out at the club since moving with her parents to Palm Springs, Calif. from Florida.

"She's playing well," Perry said. "If she's playing in a tournament, she obviously feels like she's hitting the ball well."

Higuera, who will accompany Capriati to Philadelphia, did not return telephone messages left at the club Thursday.

"She is coming to Philadelphia to play tennis only," Perry said. "That's all she wants to do and is all she's going to talk about. She just wants to concentrate on tennis right now."

Capriati's opening match, either Monday or Tuesday, marks her first appearance on the tour since the 1993 U.S. Open. Capriati was eliminated in the first round of that tournament, and she left the tour burned out with tennis and frustrated with injuries.

Her legal problems began a few months later.

First, she was accused in December of stealing a \$15 ring from a department store while shopping with a friend. She said she inadvertently walked away from the store, but she later received a citation.

Last May, she was charged with possessing a small amount of marijuana. Two of her companions, a 17-year-old runaway girl and a 20-year-old man, were charged with carrying crack cocaine and heroin, respectively.

Capriati's professional career, which started at age 13 and included \$1.5 million in earnings and millions more in endorsements, was considered by many to be in jeopardy. She entered a 28-day drug rehabilitation program at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, Fla.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jennifer Capriati makes her return to pro tennis this week in Philadelphia.

PATRIOT

HARRISBURG, PA
DAILY 58,213

FRIDAY
NOV 4 1994

170
Kcebi *BURRELLE'S* ZR

Sports shorts

National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nev., as well as a \$2,500 first prize here. The BWTC, presented by Linds Shoes, is conducted by the American Bowling Congress. Prime SportsChannel will tape Sunday afternoon's final among the top three qualifiers for airing at a later date.

Tennis

CAPRIATI RETURN SET: Jennifer Capriati, refreshed and ready to play tennis again, will return to the women's tour at next week's \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. The 18-year-old has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour, burnt out by tennis and struggling with injuries. The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the Philadelphia event, which begins Monday. Her first-round opponent will be determined at today's draw. Capriati went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.



Capriati

BECKER ACES HIS WAY TO VICTORY: Boris Becker, thundering aces right from the start, beat Guy Forget 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) yesterday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$2.25 million Paris Open. Becker, a three-time champion who won last week in Sweden, produced 22 aces, including his first seven service points. Also winning third-round matches yesterday were top-seeded Pete Sampras,

defending champion Goran Ivanisevic and Andre Agassi. Sampras downed hard-serving Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-4, 7-6 (7-3), and Ivanisevic blasted 25 aces to beat Magnus Larsson of Sweden by the same score. Agassi beat fellow American Todd Martin 6-2, 7-5 in a match between the Nos. 8 and 9 seeds. Agassi next faces Sampras, a meeting between the last two U.S. Open champions.

Golf

Jim McGovern shot a course-record 7-under 66 on the longer Plantation Course and defending champion **Fred Couples, Tom Lehman** and **Gary McCord** each had 66s over a shorter course to share the first-round lead yesterday in the Kapalua International. McGovern got off to a hot start on the 7,263-yard Plantation layout on the island of Maui, sinking birdie putts of 25 and 18 feet and barely missing an eagle on the par-5, 532-yard fifth hole. Couples, Lehman and McCord played the shorter Bay Course, which measures 6,531 yards and plays to a 71. **Guy Boros**, playing at the Bay, was alone at 67 and the group at 68 included **Sam Torrance, Ed Humenik, Clark Dennis** and **Kirk Triplett**, all at Bay, and **Jim Thorpe**.

PARNEVIK LEADS WORLD OPEN: Sweden's **Jesper Parnevik** yesterday twice recovered from the trees at The Legends at Chateau Elan in Braselton, Ga., for a 7-under-par 65, good for a one shot lead over U.S. Open winner **Ernie Els** of South Africa and **Tom Sieckmann** after one round of the \$1.9 million Sarazen World Open Championship.

SUNDAY PATRIOT-NEWS

HARRISBURG, PA
SUNDAY 173,583

NOV 6 1994

178 *BURRELLE'S* ZR
xcedi

Sports shorts

Compiled by Bob Flounders

tennis

CAPRIATI COMEBACK STARTS IN PHILADELPHIA: Jennifer Capriati will use the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia as her first stab at rebuilding her career. Much of the sports world, which thought her career was in jeopardy only six months ago, will be watching closely this week to see how well — of poorly — Capriati plays against sixth-seeded **Anke Huber** in her first match. She is scheduled to play Huber tomorrow or Tuesday.

Bowling

GOEBEL EARLY LEADER AT BRUNSWICK OPEN: Bryan Goebel was the model of consistency yesterday, rolling eight games over 200 to take the lead in the second round of the \$250,000 Brunswick Memorial World Open in Lake Zurich, Ill. Goebel, a five-time time PBA champion, averaged 227 over his 16 games and held a 27-pin lead over David Ozio. Goebel has three titles this year and is third on the earnings list. Ozio had a pinfall of 3,606 and was followed by first-round leader **Kelly Coffman**, 3,593, two-time champion **Bob Vespi**, 3,588, and **Brian Himmler**, 3,585.

2042835690

EVENING NEWS

HARRISBURG, PA
DAILY 47,751

FRIDAY
NOV 4 1994

167
KCECI

BURRELLE'S

ZR

Sports shorts

Compiled by Jim Harris

Tennis

CAPRIATI RETURN SET: Jennifer Capriati, refreshed and ready to play tennis again, will return to the women's tour at next week's \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. The 18-year-old has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour, burnt out by tennis and struggling with injuries. The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the Philadelphia event, which begins Monday.



BECKER ACES OPPONENT: Capriati's Boris Becker, thundering aces right from the start, beat Guy Forget 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$2.25 million Paris Open. Also winning third-round matches were top-seeded Pete Sampras, defending champion Goran Ivanisevic and Andre Agassi.

Elsewhere

KAPALUA LEADERS: Jim McGovern shot a course-record 7-under 66 on the longer Plantation Course and defending champion Fred Couples, Tom Lehman and Gary McCord each had 66s over a shorter course to share the first-round lead in the Kapalua International.

GIBBS, LABONTE MAY JOIN FORCES: Winston Cup team owner Joe Gibbs has offered driver Bobby Labonte a contract to drive for him starting in 1995. Dale Jarrett had asked that Gibbs release him from a contract.

2042835691

TIMES LEADER
WILKES BARRE, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 51,104

SUNDAY
NOV 6 1994

581
cebi

BURRELLE'S

EG

**Capriati using Philly
as start of comeback**

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati will use the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia as her first stab at rebuilding a career threatened by legal problems, burnout and inju-

ries — all before her 19th birthday.

Much of the sports world, which thought her career was in jeopardy only six months ago, will be watching closely this week to see how well — or poorly — Capriati plays against sixth-seeded Anke Huber in her first match.

Capriati, who has refused interview requests, has been eager for months to get back to the tour. She planned to play in the European Indoors at Zurich, Switzerland, in September, but pulled out with a groin injury.

She is scheduled to play Huber on Monday or Tuesday.

In her last tournament, the 1993 U.S. Open, Capriati was bounced out in the first round by Leila Meshki, a lesser-known long shot. Citing burnout and injuries, Capriati took a break from the tour immediately after that loss and ended to high school in Florida.

Last December, she was given a citation for walking away from a department store with a \$15 ring.

2042835692

TIMES LEADER

WILKES BARRE, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 51,104

FRIDAY
NOV 4 1994

581
cebi

BURRELLE'S

EG
.....

Capriati's return set for Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jennifer Capriati will return to the women's tennis tour beginning with the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia next week.

The 18-year-old Capriati has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour after experiencing personal problems and struggling in matches.

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the event, which runs Nov. 7-13.

The draw to determine first-round matches is scheduled for today.

"The tournament is coming up at the right time, and she's ready to play," said Barbara Perry, her agent and the tournament director. "She's excited. She needed a break from tennis, and she's fresh and ready to go."

Capriati went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.

The arrest came eight months after Capriati was eliminated from the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open and five months after she was accused of shoplifting at a mall.

A gold medal winner in women's singles at the 1992 Olympics, Capriati has won six titles and \$1.5 million in her career. First prize in the Virginia Slims is \$150,000.

"She is coming to Philadelphia to play tennis only," Perry said. "That's all she wants to do and is all she's going to talk about. She just wants to concentrate on tennis right now."

Capriati has spent much of the last 14 months trying to overcome problems that she said were started by her early stardom.

In 1990, at age 13, she turned professional before the Virginia Slims of Florida. That year, she became the youngest player to reach the semifinals of the French Open and won her first tournament, the Puerto Rico Open.

Perhaps the most heralded young player in women's tennis history, Capriati has signed endorsement contracts worth millions of dollars since her career began.

She has been working out in Palm Springs, Calif., where she moved with her parents from Florida after her rehabilitation at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach.

2042835693

DAILY RECORD

YORK, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 42,045

SATURDAY
NOV 5 1994

598
check **BURRELLE'S** ZV

TENNIS

Capriati's
opener tough

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati, returning to pro tennis after a 14-month hiatus, will play a first-round match against sixth-seeded Anke Huber next week in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber, 19, of Germany, defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on the way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.

Elsewhere . . . Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who eliminated 14-year-old phenom Venus Williams in her opening match, had to overcome a screaming infant on Friday in a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Zina Garrison-Jackson that advanced her into the semifinals of the Bank of the West Classic. . . . In Paris, Andre Agassi beat Pete Sampras 7-6 (8-6), 7-5 Friday to lead a string of upsets in the quarterfinals of the \$2.25 million Paris Open. Three-time champion Boris Becker and defending champion Goran Ivansievic also lost.

2042835694

DAILY RECORD

YORK, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 42,045

FRIDAY
NOV 4 1994

598 BURRELLE'S ZV
ceck

WOMEN'S TENNIS

**Capriati return
to be in Philly**

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati will return to the women's tennis tour beginning with the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia next week.

The 18-year-old Capriati has not played competitive tennis since the U.S. Open in 1993, when she left the tour after experiencing personal problems and struggling in matches.

The 1992 Olympic champion accepted a wild-card invitation to the event, which runs Nov. 7-13. The draw to determine first-round matches is scheduled today.

Elsewhere . . . Boris Becker, thundering aces right from the start, beat Guy Forget 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$2.25 million Paris Open. Becker, a three-time champion who won last week in Sweden, produced 22 aces, including his first seven service points.

2042835695

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL

LANCASTER, PA
DAILY 44,811

SATURDAY
NOV 5 1994

220 BURRELLE'S ZA
..ceck0

Capriati to meet Huber in the first round

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jennifer Capriati, returning to pro tennis after a 14-month hiatus, will play a first-round match against sixth-seeded Anke Huber next week in the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber, 19, of Germany, defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on the way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.

Other first-round matches will pit first-seeded Conchita Martinez against Nathalie Tauziat, fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva

against Meredith McGrath, seventh-seeded Amy Frazier against Chanda Rubin and eighth-seeded Amanda Coetzer against Meilen Tu.

Pierce, seeded second, third-seeded Lindsay Davenport and fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini will face winners of qualifying matches.

The winner of the tournament will collect \$150,000. Play starts Monday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and continues through Nov. 13.

Ocean County's
OBSERVER

TOMS RIVER, NJ
DAILY & SUNDAY 22.000

SUNDAY
NOV 6 1994

NEW JERSEY CLIPPING SERVICE

Tennis

**Capriati using Slims
to make comeback**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jennifer Capriati will use the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia as the first step in trying to rebuild a career threatened by legal problems, burnout and injuries — all before her 19th birthday.

Much of the sports world, which thought her career was in jeopardy only six months ago, will be watching closely this week to see how well — or poorly — Capriati plays against sixth-seeded Anke Huber in her first match.

Capriati, who has refused interview requests, has been eager for months to get back to the tour. She planned to play in the European Indoors at Zurich, Switzerland, in September, but pulled out with a groin injury.

She is scheduled to play Huber tomorrow or Tuesday.

"It's great to have her back," said Barbara Perry, Capriati's agent and the tournament director. "She's a great player, and the fans love her. You can't ask for any more than that."

In her last tournament, the 1993 U.S. Open, Capriati lost in the first round to Leila Meshki, a lesser-known long shot. Citing burnout and injuries, Capriati took a break from the tour immediately after that loss and returned to high school in Florida.

Last December, she was given a citation for walking away from a department store with a \$15 ring. In May, Capriati was charged with possessing a small amount of marijuana while two companions were arrested for carrying crack cocaine and heroin in Coral Gables, Fla.

Her career, which included six victories, was indefinitely postponed while Women's Tennis Association re-examined whether age limits should be enacted on the women's tour.

Capriati went through a 28-day drug treatment program, and moved in with her parents to Palm Springs, Calif.

Capriati, now 18, has been practicing with tennis guru Jose Higueras at the exclusive Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Higueras will accompany Capriati to Philadelphia.

2042835697

EVENING SUN
HANOVER, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 25,000

SUNDAY
NOV 6 1994

163
Cec.

BURRELLE'S ZV

Agassi, Rosset win semifinal matches

PARIS (AP) — Andre Agassi and Marc Rosset, two of the hottest players in tennis, won semifinal matches at the \$2.25 million Paris Open on Saturday.

Agassi breezed past two-time French Open champion Sergi Bruguera 6-4, 6-4, after Rosset rebounded from a disastrous start to defeat Michael Chang 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-4.

Since the beginning of September, the eighth-seeded Agassi has won the U.S. Open and Vienna tournaments and lost only in a third-set tiebreaker to Goran Ivanišević in the Stockholm quarterfinals.

■ **VIRGINIA SLIMS:** Jennifer Capriati will use the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia as the first step in trying to rebuild a career threatened by legal problems, burnout and injuries — all before her 19th birthday.

Much of the sports world, which thought her career was in jeopardy only six months ago, will be watching closely this week to see how well — or poorly — Capriati plays against sixth-seeded Anke Huber in her first match.

2042835698

EVENING SUN

HANDOVER, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 25,000

FRIDAY
NOV 4 1994

163
cec.

BURRELLE'S

ZV

Capriati to play in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jennifer Capriati, who has not played competitively since the 1993 U.S. Open, accepted a wild-card invitation for next week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Capriati, 18, went through a 28-day drug rehabilitation program after she was charged with misdemeanor drug possession last May.

2042835699

2042835700

K&M Division POLY-VU
Torrance, CA 90503 #PV119G

2042835700

Event Week

USA
TODAY

Sports

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1994

Players support Capriati as she returns to competition

By Doug Smith
USA TODAY

PHILADELPHIA — When her practice session ended, Jennifer Capriati stopped to chat with several players who welcomed her back. Fans followed and stopped her for autographs.

Though absent from the tour for more than a year, Capriati, 18, seemed at ease and delighted to be back. Many fellow pros who saw her Monday said hello and gave her a hug. Capriati will play No. 6 seed Anke Huber Wednesday at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia in her first match since a 1993 U.S. Open first-round loss.

"A lot of the players have been

TENNIS

sending her notes and calling her," said Anne P. Worcester, CEO of the WTA TOUR. "Much of her social life was on the tour, and I think she misses that."

Steffi Graf and Magdalena Maleeva called periodically during her absence; Natalia Zvereva and Lindsay Davenport sent faxes from Oakland last week upon learning of her plans to return. Women pros and officials seem determined to be sensitive and supportive as Capriati attempts to overcome a series of troubling experiences that included an arrest last May for possession of marijuana.

"We're getting to know each other better, and I really like her," Davenport said. "I felt bad for her in her situation, because I don't think it was her fault. I hope the media will be a little bit easy. I don't think she had a serious problem."

Said Amanda Coetzer: "She's acted pretty responsibly for the last few months. I'm sure she'll work things out for herself."

She takes the first step back without her parents, Denise and Stefano, but either or both might show if she's still playing by the weekend. Capriati is also entered in the doubles, with Mercedes Paz of Argentina. She's been working with Jose Higuera since the family moved to Rancho Mirage, Calif., last

August, but Higuera says it's a short-term arrangement.

Capriati had planned to return to the tour last month in Zurich, Switzerland. "I started serious practice sometime in August," she said. "I thought that I would be ready last month, but I pulled a (groin) muscle, and that set me back. Gradually, my practices become more intense. I really stepped up my workouts the past week."

Capriati, who was once ranked No. 6 in the world, isn't sure if her next step will be along the same path.

"In regards to after this tournament and next year, I don't know," she said. "I'm just going to take things day-by-day."

2042835703

Key National

2042835703.A

UPDATE

FROM USA TODAY'S NATIONAL NEWS NETWORK

California teen notches Philadelphia tennis upset

Meilen Tu, 16, a high school student from Northridge, Calif., upset No. 8 seed Amanda Coetzer 6-1, 6-3 in the first round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

"I knew if I played well, I'd have a chance," Tu said Monday after beating Coetzer, a South African ranked No. 16 in the world. "I knew she was a little bit nervous because I came out playing pretty well. I didn't give her any errors."

In night matches, No. 2 seed Mary Pierce of France advanced to the second round with a 6-0, 6-1 rout of Russian Tatiana Ignatiava, and Lisa Raymond rallied past fellow American Sandra Cacic 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5. Defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain is the top seed.



By Naring Hartzenbusch, AP

NEW FACE: High school student Meilen Tu, 16, pulls off an upset at Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

2042835704

2042835704

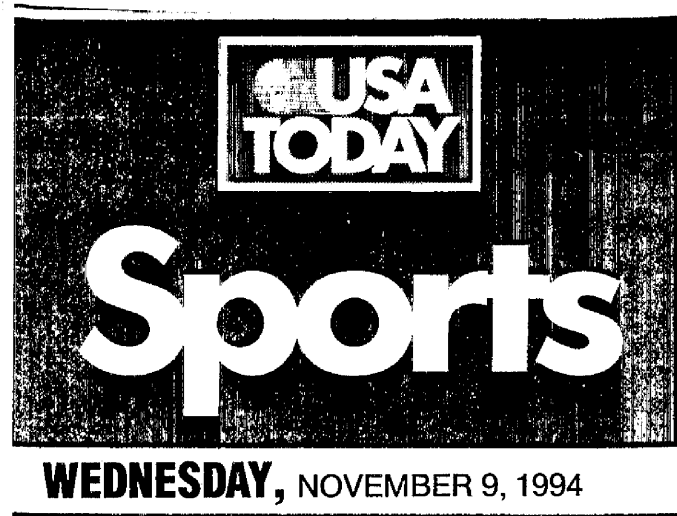
Swinging into action

Cover Photo



By Nanine Hartzenbusch, AP

NICE RETURN: Jennifer Capriati returns the ball during a practice session Tuesday. She starts her comeback tonight against Anke Huber in Philadelphia. (Story, 15C)



2042835705

Capriati faces Huber in return to Slims action

By Doug Smith
USA TODAY

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati ends a 14-month hiatus from the women's tour tonight, facing No. 6 seed Anke Huber at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Capriati, 18, completed her final preparations for her much-publicized return with a spirited session Tuesday with Jose Higuera. Huber, who is 0-4 against Capriati, was among the onlookers.

"Timing-wise, she's hitting the ball fine, even though she

TENNIS

hasn't played in 14 months," Higuera said. "I think she's in pretty good shape, but matches are a little bit different. There's more tension and nervousness to deal with."

Higuera coaches Jim Courier and works with several juniors in the USTA Player Development Program but says he'll stay with Capriati "as long as I have the time and can do it. ... I care about Jennifer more than I care about Jennifer's tennis."

Higuera said he and Capriati have meals together when convenient, but he's not trying to be a chaperone.

"I don't have to be with her 24 hours; she's a pretty responsible girl," he said.

Asked if Capriati's father, Stefano, again would be involved in coaching his daughter, Higuera said, "I don't know, I don't know."

GOES AT IT ALONE:

Chanda Rubin, also 18, turned pro a few months after Capriati made her debut.

"I wasn't as good as she was

at that age," said Rubin, No. 26 in the world.

But Rubin followed a different game plan, which, among other things, didn't include close parental involvement. Rubin advanced to the quarterfinals Tuesday, upsetting No. 7 Amy Frazier 6-1, 6-1.

"I don't know how other people can handle it," said Rubin, of Lafayette, La. "Tennis is just for me. I don't consider it a family project, but it is nice to have my mom along sometimes. ... Everybody takes a different road."

Rubin enjoys traveling and

being in control of her life and schedule. She understands the concern spawned by Capriati's difficulties but adds, "She hasn't had a bad life. With the money she's made, she can do whatever she wants."

Her advice to the tour's youngest pros — Venus Williams and Martina Hingis, both 14: "Try not to worry about pressure from parents, media and friends. Play the game for (yourself) and not for anybody else. I just hope they have a good family basis and can deal with problems as they come."

Capriati comeback stop could be brief

This first comeback appearance today by Jennifer Capriati doesn't figure to last long, considering that at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia she'll face Anke Huber, who last month beat Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce.

But welcome back anyway.

Maybe you can even be an inspiration for Monica Seles to return to where she belongs.

Peculiar, isn't it, how much older Capriati seems now, even though she's still only 18. Yet that's still one year younger than Dwight Gooden was when he started to take New York and all of baseball by storm, way back in 1984.

Maybe Capriati ought to



COMMENTARY

By Tom Weir

keep one of Gooden's baseball cards handy. Doc's flunked drug tests means they're worth hardly anything at all now, but it's that lesson which gives them an entirely different kind of value.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994 • USA TODAY

2042835706

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1994

NEWSLINE

A QUICK READ ON THE NEWS

WALL STREET: Dow Jones industrial average inches up 1.01 points to 3831.75; Nasdaq index slips to 767.25; 30-year Treasury bond yield falls to 8.11%. 1,3B.

S.C. TRAGEDY: In the aftermath of Susan Smith's confession to driving her car and two children into a lake, town of Union tires of the spotlight, seeks normalcy. 6A.

► Examining the parent-child bond. 6D.

TENNIS COMEBACK: Tennis star Jennifer Capriati, 18, left, ends 14-month lay-off, begins comeback with a loss to No. 6 seed Anke Huber in first round of Philadelphia tourney. 1C.



AP
CAPRIATI: Back after drug charge

2042835707



Cover Page

**USA
TODAY**

Sports

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1994

Sports Cover

Capriati falls in return



By Chris Gardner, AP

STRETCHING HER LEGS: Jennifer Capriati reaches to return a shot to Anke Huber in Philadelphia Wednesday night in her first pro tennis competition in more than a year.

Teen pleased despite loss

 By Doug Smith
USA TODAY

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati climbed back into the pro tennis arena at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Wednesday night and — for awhile — played as if she'd never left.

A partisan crowd helped Capriati stay close, but the 14-month layoff took away her edge against No. 6 seed Anke Huber, a player she had beaten in four previous matches. Huber prevailed 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

"My tennis felt a lot stronger and better than it did the last few tournaments I played (before leaving tour)," Capriati said. "I've

learned that I really love this game, and it doesn't matter to me whether I win or lose."

Capriati's ground strokes seemed shaky at the start, but she smacked the ball with more confidence and consistency in the second.

Huber found a rhythm in the third set, taking the first four games, mainly on sizzling baseline winners. The match ended with Capriati hitting a forehand long.

Capriati, 18, had not played on the women's pro tour since a 1993 first-round U.S. Open loss. She was arrested on a drug-possession charge last May and spent several weeks in treatment.

► Story, 4C; results, 15C

2042835708

Capriati is back but loses to Huber in Philadelphia

By Doug Smith
USA TODAY

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati walked onto the court with a trace of a smile, but the crowd's warm ovation made it grow wider and warmer.

"It's great to be back," Capriati said.

She played well at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia

TENNIS

Wednesday night but not well enough to upset Germany's Anke Huber. Huber outlasted Capriati 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. "I got tired. I'm not used to running like that," Capriati said. "I really wasn't that nervous. I couldn't wait to play. I enjoyed being on the court again." She left the tour after a 1993 U.S. Open first-round loss, and her life got jumbled and confused. A shoplifting charge, followed by an arrest for drug possession, led to a brief stay at a drug-treatment center.

"I experienced a lot. I got wiser," Capriati said of her 14-month absence. "I found out what makes me happy and more about myself. ... Different things were going on, but right now I don't have any expectations."

Nine months passed before she picked up a racket, but when she did, the desire to play competitively grew.

"At first, I just wanted to go out there, hit some balls and exercise," she said. "Then I started going out every day; then I missed playing competitively. I'm not expecting anything from myself right now. My goal is not to be No. 1. I just want to see how it goes."

She hopes her next event will be in Australia, but she's trying not to look that far ahead. She appreciated the support of fellow pros and Wednesday night's crowd.

"Everyone was excited to see me again, and I was really happy to see them," she said.

Her parents, Denise and Stefano, stayed home at her request. "I just wanted to keep everything as simple as I could, so they're at home supporting me," she said.



By George Nikitin, AP

NO GRAND SLAM: Venus Williams, 14, who recently made her pro debut, will not travel to Australia.

When asked if she had gotten through her rebellious stage, she said, "That's just the way I am. I'm not trying to be rebellious."

BRIEFLY: Australian Open officials announced Wednesday that tennis prodigy Venus Williams, 14, won't receive a wild card to that grand slam event.

"We've had no request from Venus Williams or her management, but the point is we would not be supporting underage girls, whether it will be Venus or someone else," tournament director Paul McNamee said.

Williams' father, Richard, said his daughter hadn't planned to play in the tournament. "Venus said that's too far to fly," Richard Williams said. "Right now, she's not going to play any major tournaments next year."

Williams said Venus probably will resume her career in March at the Delray Beach (Fla.) Championships. ... The U.S. Tennis Association must select by Monday the site of the Feb. 4-6 Davis Cup match against France. ... World Team Tennis executive director Ilana Kloss said Wednesday the league's first expansion team for next year will be in Schenectady, N.Y.

FOR THE RECORD

TENNIS

KREMLIN CUP

Wednesday at Moscow

Results in the \$1.125 million tournament:

Singles, first round: Karol Kucera, Slovakia, def. Sergi Bruguera (1), Spain, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4. Marc Rosset (6), Switzerland, def. Radomir Vasek, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4.

Second round: Chuck Adams, Pacific Palisades, Calif., def. Todd Martin (2), Palm Coast, Fla., 7-6 (7-5), 6-3. Daniel Vacek, Czech Republic, def. Hendrik Dreekmann, Germany, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1. Alexander Volkov, Russia, def. Wayne Ferreira (4), South Africa, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Carl-Uwe Steeb, Germany, def. Andrea Gaudenzi (8), Italy, 6-2, 6-3.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CHAMPIONSHIP

Wednesday at Antwerp, Belgium

Results in the \$1.1 million tournament at the Antwerp Sports Palace:

Singles, first round: Byron Black, Zimbabwe, def. Ronald Agenor, Haiti, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3. Magnus Larsson (7), Sweden, def. Jonathan Stark, Seattle, 7-5, 6-3. Stefan Edberg (3), Sweden, def. Jeremy Bates, Britain, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Sebastien Larreau, Canada, def. Michael Stich (2), Germany, 6-7 (0-7), 6-3, 6-3.

Second round: Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, def. Renzo Furlan, Italy, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

VIRGINIA SLIMS OF PHILADELPHIA

Wednesday at Philadelphia

Results in the \$750,000 tournament at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (seedings in parentheses):

Singles, first round: Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, def. Pam Shriver, Baltimore, 6-4, 6-0. Nathalie Tauziat, France, def. Conchita Martinez (1), Spain, 6-4, 6-4. Lindsay Davenport (3), Palos Verdes, Calif., def. Tami Whitlinger-Jones, Neshann, Wis., 7-5, 6-3. Anke Huber, Germany, def. Jennifer Capriati, Wesley Chapel, Fla., 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Second round: Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., def. Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Maine, 6-2, 6-2. Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, def. Zina Garrison-Jackson, Houston, 6-4, 7-5.

Doubles, first round: Lea Ghirardi, France, and Nino Louarsabishvili, Georgia, def. Jill Hetherington, Sarasota, Fla., and Shaun Stafford, Gainesville, Fla., 6-3, 6-2.

2042835710